Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-234 *5 December 1990*

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El Salvador

Cristiani: FMLN Harms People, Not Government

PA0512085790 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] attacks against hydroelectric plants hurt the people and not the government or the Armed Forces, according to President Alfredo Cristiani and the president of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez.

They pointed out that these two large state-owned dams "were built by the great efforts made by the Salvadoran people to promote the country's economic and social development."

President Cristiani added: "The FMLN, showing its absolute contempt for the Salvadoran people's patrimony, has carried out these destructive actions that hurt the entire country because the Cerron Grande and 5 November Hydroelectric Plants generate most of the electricity that fuels the machinery of Salvadoran progress."

The president said that in quantifying the loss caused by these two attacks we must not only assess structural damage, which will require additional expenditures, but also take into account the many months that will be needed to normalize operations.

Cristiani added that we must bear in mind and condemn at the national and international level "the harm done to our people by the hinderance and paralyzation of vital services such as electricity, potable water, communications, traffic, and a host of health problems suffered by the civilian population."

The government of President Cristiani added: "In the face of this irrational FMLN behavior, the Salvadoran people are wondering: How can the FMLN justify its violent and terrorist actions when a peace effort through civilized methods is under way?"

Finally, government officials pointed out that the FMLN continues to intensify violent actions and violate human rights while President Cristiani has reiterated his goodwill by expressing his willingness to continue the dialogue process to attain peace.

FMLN Downs AC-47 Plane in Chalatenango

PA0412200590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1811 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] According to military and guerrilla sources, this morning the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, downed an AC-47 plane. The incident occurred at 0910 in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department. According to the official report given by a spokesman of the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], this incident has taken the conflict to a higher level. He added that the guerrillas have escalated the war with the use of SAM-7 missiles.

The military report said that the AC-47 plane was downed by a missile during clashes that, according to guerrilla reports, have been taking place in that area since yesterday afternoon.

Coprefa reported that the AC-47 plane was downed in Cuatro Pinos in La Laguna, Chalatenango. The FMLN, however, said that the plane was downed in the area of Plan Verde Canton, San Jose, La Laguna.

Apparently, this type of aircraft is operated by two pilots and is equipped with .50- or .30-caliber machine guns, which are handled by two artillerymen. Based on these reports the six crew members could have died, as, according to the guerrillas, the AC-47 plane was blown to pieces by the antiaircraft fire.

Here is the FMLN report:

[Begin undentified speaker recording] This is Radio Farabundo Marti reporting that today, 4 December, at 0910 an AC-47 plane was downed while it was supporting troops of the 4th Infantry Brigade in La Laguna municipality, Chalatenango Department. This AC-47 plane fell near San Jose village, in La Laguna jurisdiction. At the time the plane was downed it was strafing the school and nearby houses in La Laguna. This plane, which was the target of our antiaircraft fire, was supporting 4th Infantry Brigade troops during clashes that began yesterday at 1500.

As of this morning, the number of casualties as a result of clashes in La Laguna was 12, including 4 dead and 8 wounded. The casualties include two sublieutenants, one of whom was killed and identified as Salomon Penas Linares. Hence, another plane—an AC-47—of the antidemocratic army was grounded by the antiaircraft fire of the National Army for Democracy. [end recording]

The FMLN recently downed an A-37 aircraft and a helicopter in Usulutan, and now an AC-47 in La Laguna, Chalatenango.

Here is Coprefa's report on the clashes taking place in La Laguna:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Fierce clashes occurred yesterday at 1550 in the outskirts of La Laguna, Chalatenango, during which eight terrorists and two soldiers died, including an officer of the 4th Infantry Brigade based in El Paraiso.

The report from that garrison stated that Sublieutenant Salomon Duenas Linares died in combat and 15 rebels were wounded but managed to flee. The report added that two soldiers were killed, and another one was wounded during another clash at 1700 in the same area of La Laguna, Chalatenango. [end recording]

In another action, at 0100 today terrorists harassed the facilities of the 6th Infantry Brigade and the Atonal

Battalion. No casualties were reported in the Armed Forces. The second garrison, however, sustained some damage. According to the report, the 6th Infantry Brigade commanders reported that the rebels fired three 81-mm mortars, which fell outside the military facilities, landing in empty lots. The Atonal Battalion reported that a 81-mm mortar fell on the medical center, but no casualties were inflicted.

Opposition Leader Views Prospects for Peace

PM0412153590 Madrid ABC in Spanish 21 Nov 90 p 37

[Interview with Salvadoran Democratic Convergence leader Guillermo Ungo by Enrique Serbeto in San Salvador; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Serbeto] What is your opinion on the current state of the peace negotiations between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)?

[Ungo] There has indeed been considerable, although completely insufficient, progress in this process, and that is why we are bogged down. We could say that in the military sphere the situation is deadlocked. The last few meetings and the new procedures proposed through UN mediation offer new prospects, however, for unblocking the situation, although it is very difficult to predict the speed at which developments will take place; rather, it seems that everything is proceeding slowly. Underlying all this is the military aspect; the issue is the Army's relinquishing its role as a political super-party and adopting a more professional position.

[Serbeto] Do you believe that the FMLN is preparing an offensive against the capital, like last year's offensive?

[Ungo] I believe that they have already ruled this out—at least, in that form. I have the impression that what is being discussed the most is intensifying the military aspect so that—if you will excuse the paradox—the negotiation can be unblocked. The people who know the most about the offensive, however, seem to be those in the government itself; the defense minister has already declared that this year's offensive has failed, after the Army "announced" it for 1 November, then 11 November—the anniversary of last year's offensive—or 16 November—the date of the killing of the Jesuits.

[Serbeto] What influence has the cutback in U.S. military aid had on the peace negotiations?

[Ungo] I believe that its full effects have not yet been seen. As a single measure it is clearly insufficient and reflects not the Bush administration's political line, but rather that of the Congress. We will have to see how this policy affects the El Salvador Government, but for the present it has been contradictory. It shows that the Army has been especially unable to accept it, because it believed that the U.S. military aid was eternal and unlimited.

Government Delegate on Efforts by UN Mediator

PA0412225990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The efforts being made by the UN mediator in the talks between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas might lead to concrete results between the parties soon, acccording to Oscar Santamaria, head of the government commission to the talks. The government and the guerrillas started a new round of talks with the mediation of Peruvian diplomat Alvaro de Soto, who has been the personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar since April.

Santamaria, who is also the justice minister, has said that he is optimistic about the new round of talks scheduled for this month. He said that the right path is being followed, although he criticized the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] for their offensive, which is designed to exert pressure on the neogtiations. The rebel offensive has caused more than 500 casualties among soldiers, rebels, and civilians, and million dollar losses, according to several sources.

The FMLN, however, believes that its military effort should make the government realize that it is crucial to reach agreements at the negotiating table, especially regarding the Armed Forces. These agreements should result in the demilitarization of the Armed Forces or the ending of the impunity, according to statements made by Commander German Serrano.

The justice minister explained in a television interview that the UN objective is to get both sides to reach some sort of an agreement on the differing points that were approved in Caracas in May.

In political circles comments have been made about the existence of a document with concrete proposals by the United Nations on military mattters. Santamaria declined to comment on this document, although he said there might be suggestions that could be considered or rejected by both parties. The mediator has a difficult task, points have to be discussed, and there are different views of the overall process. Santamaria admits that the military issues are the most difficult to deal with. He also said that there are other issues like the elections, human rights, and justice which have not yet been exhausted. Even though the agreements might not be reached very rapidly, Santamaria trusts that the process will succeed.

Honduras

Callejas Cancels U.S. Trip Due to Heavy Floods

Thousands Homeless; Crops Damaged

PA0112192790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1646 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Following a few days of sunshine, hard rains returned to northern

Honduras in the last 24 hours, causing heavy floods in the Sula Valley where there are some 70,000 homeless as a result of the recent flooding of the Ulua River.

The Ulua and the Chamelecon Rivers, two of the most plentiful rivers in the country, have now merged, thus prompting the order to immediately evacuate approximately 500 families. The evacuation order includes the residents of La Lima, headquarters of the U.S. transnational Chiquita Banana Company. The rescue teams are using boats to evacuate the people and recover some of the property of the approximately 25,000 residents of La Lima.

President Rafael Callejas, who visited the area yesterday, for the time being has ruled out requesting any emergency international aid, in spite of the serious damage done to housing and crops. Callejas said that the nation will redouble its internal efforts to cope with the crisis.

"The problem is a serious one because some areas have been isolated by the destruction of bridges. Health problems will be exacerbated, and this fact will make us work in a more broad and determined manner," the president said.

In November, thousands of hectares of the Sula Valley were flooded by the Ulua River, with damage estimated at over $100 million, according to unofficial sources.

The authorities have not yet evaluated the damage caused by the new flooding, but the loss of beans, bananas, and citrus crops, among others, foretells hunger and unemployment for the people.

Today the sun was again shining in the area, so the people are hoping the level of the waters will drop and they will be able to receive private and government help.

Tours Region; Requests Foreign Aid

PA0412013790 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0103 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Official sources have reported that Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has canceled his trip to Puerto Rico and Miami in view of the state of emergency his government declared in northern Honduras.

The president had been scheduled to travel to Miami on 4 December to be the main speaker at the Caribbean Basin conference, and afterwards he was going to Puerto Rico to sign a trade agreement.

Nevertheless, the state of emergency decreed in Sula Valley, on Honduras' northern coast, will prevent the president's trip.

Over the past few days, heavy rains have hit the region, isolating some communities, causing huge losses of basic crops and leaving hundreds of families homeless.

Callejas toured the affected areas and asked for international help to overcome the problem.

"It is a fact that once we decreed the state of emergency, I could not leave the country. I am going to stay here as long as the flooding continues," the president said.

He added: "I have already notified the Caribbean Basin conference that there is a state of emergency in the country and that I will be unable to attend the conference."

Referring to the trade agreement, Callejas indicated that the governor of Puerto Rico has set a later date to sign it and that he expressed Puerto Rico's willingness to contribute as much as possible to overcome the disaster in Honduras, and that for this purpose, he will be sending a personal envoy to Honduras.

Armed Forces' Cantarero Lopez Resigns Post

PA0312214390 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 6

[Letter of resignation by Brigade General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez, Armed Forces commander in chief, issued in Tegucigalpa on 1 December]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 December 1990

The sovereign Congress, through Decree 165-89, dated 26 October 1989, appointed me commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, a post I have held until this date.

Insurmountable personal concerns now prevent me from continuing in this post which requires complete attention. I irrevocably resign, therefore, as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Until the constitutional formalities are fulfilled in appointing my successor, I delegate my command, in accordance with the law, to the Joint Chief of Staff.

Respectfully yours,
Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez,
Commander in Chief of the Honduran Armed Forces

To the Sovereign National Congress,
Legislative Palace, Tegucigalpa

cc: Constitutional President of the Republic and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
cc: Superior Council of the Armed Forces
cc: File

Further on Resignation

PA0312191290 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez told the committee of high-ranking officers who met him at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Force Base on 1 December: "I thought these types of situations had been overcome. I had hoped to finish my term for the good of the country and the institution. I believe, however, that the best thing to do is to present my resignation."

Cantarero Lopez arrived at the base on a private flight from Kansas at approximately 0840 on Saturday, accompanied by Colonel Hector Rene Fonseca Lopez, chief of Army Operations; Colonel Ricardo Luque Portillo, commander of the 110th Infantry Brigade; and Colonel Jose Luis Nunez Bennett, chief of the 3d Artillery Battalion.

The overthrown Army commander in chief traveled to Kansas during the middle of last week to receive an honor from the command and general staff school, which included him in their Hall of Fame.

During his absence, high-ranking officers met to discuss firing their boss, because to their way of thinking Cantarero had made mistakes in his policies managing the institution and did not accept suggestions.

Members of the commission appointed to receive Cantarero Lopez told him that he had to change his attitude and correct certain mistakes.

Catararo Lopez replied: "I believe I am acting correctly, but I have been censured by you, so the best thing would be to resign, even though I had hoped to complete my term, and I thought these types of situations had been overcome for the good of the country and our institution."

A high-ranking officer told him: Here is the resignation, General. Read it to see if you agree. Cantarero Lopez replied: There is no need. Immediately thereafter, he signed the resignation.

With a worried look, Cantarero asked the Army commission to meet at the Air Force base to request an explanation on the decision made during his absence.

The meeting lasted approximately an hour and a half, and afterward, Cantarero Lopez, with indifference and calm, asked the commission to allow him to remove his belongings from the general command (his office) at the General Staff headquarters.

According to military sources, the general collected his belongings and then left for his home in the Los Angeles neighborhood in Tegucigalpa.

It was rumored that with Cantarero's forced resignation some officers loyal to him would fall from grace, among them Jose Santos Ortez Pena, commander of the Army Support Command (CALE) and the Armored Cavalry Regiment (Recablin).

It turns out, however, that Cantarero Lopez' case, instead of dividing the armed branch, has brought it closer together. His resignation was unanimously accepted by the Armed Forces Superior Council (Cossuffaa).

Presidency Communique on Resignation

PA0312171790 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 7

["Press communique" issued by the Presidency of the Republic on 1 December]

[Text] The constitutional president of the Republic and general commander of the Armed Forces hereby reports to the Honduran people that on this date Brigade General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez presented his irrevocable resignation, for strictly personal reasons, from the post of commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

This resignation will be turned over to the National Congress, where it will be handled in accordance with the Constitution and laws.

Gen. Cantarero is in his home enjoying all of the rights and privileges accorded to him by the Constitution, the Armed Forces statute, and other legal provisions, and according to his rank and the high post he held.

Tegucigalpa, 1 December 1990.
[Signed] Rafael Leonardo Callejas R., president of the Republic and general commander of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Callejas on Cantarero Resignation, Flooding

PA0412024890 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by Danilo Izaguirre at the presidential residence in Tegucigalpa on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Callejas] The problem of the refugees in the country's north and the damage caused by the floods is being studied. I came before the latest Chamelecon River flood took place.

[Izaguirre] It seems as though your government is concerned about this disaster, which has done much damage to the government and country.

[Callejas] Right now, we are seriously worried about how to take care of the victims. As for the future, we are concerned because these floods have seriously affected the backbone of Honduras' economy.

[Izaguirre] How serious is the damage from the floods?

[Callejas] At this point we cannot estimate the damage. It would be premature to do so because the waters have not yet receded. There will be property damage.

We are promoting three programs that will take effect immediately. There will be a construction material depository that will be available next week for anyone whose house has been damaged by the floods. Those people will have access to construction materials as well as to donations and financing at very favorable conditions. Architect Mario Martin de Limba has been given instructions in this regard. He has been alloted the (prolote) [not further indentified] resources as well as 10 million lempiras from next year's budget. We are doing this to fight the housing shortage and to ease the problem of lost domestic appliances.

Also, the social investment fund will develop housing construction programs to help the housing sector, which has suffered serious damage.

By 10 December, the Secretariat of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation will have the funds to sign contracts with enterprises to initiate the reconstruction and reactivation of the country's productive sector and to repair roads. This is the second program.

This program will include the coffee sector, which will require a special emergency program yet to be drafted.

In the third place, we are also analyzing a health program and with this in mind, the government is ready to face the crisis now. As for the future, the problem is more serious. We have not spoken to the banana companies or to the independent banana producers yet. We do not know how they have been affected. I want to tell you that river banks have been flooded in many places. I hope the rains end soon because when banana plants are under water for a long period of time, the quality of the product suffers.

It has been said that as a result of the 8, 9, and 10 November river floods, more than 6 million boxes of bananas have been lost. It is difficult to assess the damage now, but it has been extensive. This is why we have declared the south valley area an emergency zone.

[Izaguirre] What is the latest information you have on the floods, Mr. President?

[Callejas] It has stopped raining in the basin of the Chamelecon River and because of this, the Ulua River has receded to its normal level. We hope that we will have suitable conditions when we face the damage. The rains have done quit a bit of damage.

[Izaguirre] Mr. President, we know that the situation at this moment is not very easy. The people, however, would like you to explain the situation. What happened with the Armed Forces, is this unusual?

[Callejas] This is an issue that I am not willing to discuss at this moment.

[Izaguirre] What repercussions could General Arnulfo Cantarero's resignation as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces have on your government?

[Callejas] I would like to separate the two issues and I will not comment on either one. There will be an official presidential communique and after that, you can ask questions. At this point we are concerned with the floods. The country has been seriously hurt. I believe this is the worst crisis of this nature in the country's history. The government can face the crisis now, but the losses in exporting are huge and the country's economy will be seriously hampered because of the resources that will have to be dedicated to reactivate activities.

I want to tell you that we are doing everything possible to help the victims. We are providing cold and hot food. We have provided blankets for children. The health sector is working. There is a strong feeling of solidarity in San Pedro Sula and La Lima.

Other parts of the country are suffering as well. Next week I plan to go to Colon Department.

[Izaguirre] On other occasions we would have witnessed military movements throughout the country because of what has happened—that is, the apparently forced resignation of the commander of the Armed Forces—but you are taking the situation calmly. Here you are at your residence, in the company of Supreme Court President Osvaldo Ramos, head of the Conservative Party bench, oberto Callejas, and your advisers. How are you taking this situation?

[Callejas] The communique that I mentioned will explain my position. What I can tell you is that we are all concerned with the floods and that from the political, social, and military point of view, the country is calm. We do not have to think about anything that is contrary to the national stability. We should not forget that our problem is in the northern part of the country. The national crisis is there.

[Izaguirre] Will you be at the side of your fellow countrymen affected by the floods?

[Callejas] Of course. This is a matter of solidarity. With an open mind we can be more effective and offer political backing to the Permanent Committee of National Emergency, which has been informed of what is needed. We have been in constant contact with the mayor of San Pedro Sula. A group of officials, including high level officials, and a presidential delegate, and the deputy health minister, are there. We have sent the assistant director of the Honduran Social Investment Fund.

There is a big team ready to face the current situation and to easily solve the problems of the future.

We will do whatever is possible so that our fellow countrymen do not suffer anymore.

[Izaguirre] Mr. President, I do not want to abuse your kind decision to allow us to talk with you, but today the commander of the Armed Forces resigned. How much could this affect your government program and your international relations?

[Callejas] It will have no effect at all.

Callejas Denies Coup Rumors

PA0512045590 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] San Pedro Sula—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has denied the rumor that General Arnulfo Cantarero was dismissed as commander of the Armed Forces because he was plotting a coup d'etat.

Callejas asked the media not to speculate on the departure of General Cantarero. "Gen. Cantarero has been a loyal and highly disciplined officer who promoted the interests of the Armed Forces, and I would appreciate it if there would be no speculation about his leaving," the president said.

Callejas said he learned of Cantarero's resignation on the very day he resigned. He also said he met with the superior council of the Armed Forces to discuss the resignation, which he saw, Callejas noted. During that meeting he was informed that the council would deliver to a congressional commission a list of three candidates from which to select the officer who will replace General Cantarero.

President Callejas was asked if Cantarero was forced to resign, and he said that as far as he knows, the general met with a group of high-ranking officers on the first, and that "his resignation letter says that the resignation is for personal reasons, and I respect that decision."

Callejas said that the rumor that Gen. Cantarero was plotting a coup is groundless. He said that when Cantarero was commander of the Armed Forces "his relation with the Presidency was always in the framework of the Constitution."

Callejas said that Cantarero's resignation is an internal matter of a personal nature, "and we will respect the system for replacing that high-ranking officer."

Callejas was asked: What do you think about an officer remaining in the post of commander of the Armed Forces for such a short period of time? He said: "Institutionality is vital for the survival of the Armed Forces. It is essential that replacements and internal changes take place and be based on the country's stability. The Armed Forces have accepted Gen. Cantarero's resignation and are now, based on their rules, finding his replacement."

According to Callejas, the Constitution is not violated when changes in the Armed Forces occur because of someone's resignation. Callejas was asked: Is there division in the Armed Forces? He answered: "Not at all."

A journalist quoted a news report to ask the president if it were true that Gen. Cantarero resigned as a result of pressure exerted by the U.S. Government because the general refused to extradite a high-ranking officer wanted by a U.S. court.

Callejas responded: "I have no information on that. The country's Constitution permits extradition only for crimes that have been duly reviewed by a court of this country. I do not know of any extradition request for any Armed Forces officer."

Callejas was asked if the National Party would be divided if Navy Commander Luis A. Discua was named commander of the Armed Forces, given that Discua's brother, Celin Discua, is the president of that party. He answered: "The Armed Forces are apolitical and the Constitution is very clear. If Commander Discua were to run as one of the candidates to that post and if Congress considers him for the post, then his family should not be a factor. Neither the Constitution nor the institution set limits in this situation. The president of the central committee of the National Party has held that post for some time and the commander of the Navy has held his post for a longer period of time. I do not want any speculation on this."

Callejas was asked: Why do you think that the past two commanders of the Armed Forces have been navy people? He said that Armed Forces commanders have come from all branches. "General Oswaldo Lopez Arellano was from the Air Force; General Melgar and General Paz Garcia were from the public security forces; General Lopez Reyes was from the Air Force; General Regalado Hernandez and General Cantarero were from the Navy. But remember, all of them came from the Army and they are military academy graduates, so basically, they are all people from the Army. Taking this into consideration, there is no difference regarding the origin of the officers."

Armed Forces on Cantarero, Floods

PA0312182890 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with Colonel Jose Oscar Flores, director of the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, by reporter Milton Macias in Tegucigalpa on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Macias] How is it possible that such an abrupt change [resignation of Armed Forces chief General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez] can take place within the Armed Forces at a time when the country is facing a national tragedy? In fact, the situation on the northern coast is such that it has been declared an emergency area.

[Flores] The Armed Forces are aware of the situation the country is going through, not only in the northern area—perhaps a place where the problem becomes more evident due to its topography—but in the eastern region where the Armed Forces, especially members of the 110th Infantry Brigade and the Green Task Force, have been helping. We are very aware of the situation.

With regard to the communique that the Public Relations Directorate released this afternoon, I want to say that we are giving full support to all government measures and decisions. We back the government decision to declare an emergency in the area because of the damage. Proof of this support is that a delegation will accompany the president to inspect the area and see how our means and personnel can further help in all the tasks that are being undertaken there.

Consequently, aware of this situation, we have been working very hard, and specific instructions have been

given to redouble the effort we are making not only to help the victims but to protect the property of those affected in the region.

[Macias] What can you tell Hondurans about the assessment you have made so far?

[Flores] Regarding the damage caused by the floods, we are very worried. Everyone knows that the government issued an emergency decree yesterday, and we are willing to support all government measures. We are Hondurans. This is our country. Our fellow countrymen were affected and we are in the best disposition to help with our various means, not only with Army troops but with our aircraft, vehicles, and other resources to help in the area. The government has already analyzed the situation and we are helping the government in every way we can.

[Macias] There is a rumor about the procedure that the Armed Forces used to detain General Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez. In fact, there is talk that a very common procedure, which I do not want to mention, was used.

[Flores] I must tell you that Gen. Cantarero Lopez returned to the country and is busy with his personal and professional activities, his normal activities. Therefore, I want to stress and let this be very clear—I hope we have the support of the media on this to explain to the citizens—that Gen. Cantarero Lopez is respected. He is respected as a top officer, and he deserves such respect. He is devoted to his personal activities. We will in no way believe that he could have been arrested, as reported this afternoon. That is not true. Gen. Cantarero Lopez is a human being, an officer, and a professional. This matter is over with. It was a normal situation. The institution continues to exist and institutions are permanent.

[Macias] It has also been said in the media that a group of officers asked Gen. Cantarero Lopez to remove certain officers and appoint others and that he refused to do this and decided to resign instead. Is this true?

[Flores] I cannot say anything about that, but I can tell you that the institution abides by certain regulations and mandates in accordance with the policy of the general commander who, in this case, is the president of the Republic and who establishes policy.

We do have the Armed Forces Superior Council which acts as an advisory body.

[Macias] Where is Gen. Cantarero Lopez and is it true that he is packing to travel abroad?

[Flores] Not true. He will be devoted to his private activities. He is an officer on active service. It will be subsequent decisions which will determine what will happen. He is safe and sound. Anyone who wishes to speak with him can do so. There is no problem.

[Macias] It has been said that there was discontent with Gen. Cantarero within the Armed Forces. It was said that some officers were the cause for his resignation. Can you further explain this?

[Flores] In the document presented to the permanent commission of the sovereign National Congress this afternoon, Gen. Cantarero Lopez clearly establishes that he had to resign because of compelling reasons.

[Macias] What would these compelling reasons be?

[Flores] I do not know. He must have his reasons, but that is what he said.

[Macias] When will the list of three candidates—which the Armed Forces Superior Council must draft and send to Congress—to replace him be announced?

[Flores] According to the established procedure, the Superior Council nominates three candidates and the National Congress, in this case, the Permanent Commission, will hold a special session to discuss this matter. Thus, it will be up to the sovereign National Congress to settle this situation.

Callejas Urges U.S. Aid To Fight Drugs

PA0412033990 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas asked the U.S. Government on 29 November to put more emphasis on its support of the countries in the region in order to solve the problem of illegal drug trafficking.

During his impromptu speech before the authorities responsible for compliance with regional cooperation agreement on eliminating drug trafficking, Callejas said that for his government it is very important to contribute to this task.

Callejas said that the Central American region tends to serve as a bridge between the producers and the largest drug consumption market because of its geographical characteristics. This fact motivated the presidents who attended the Montelimar meeting to sign a regional agreement on coordinating actions to fight drug trafficking.

After saying that the battle will not be easy, President Callejas said that the effort will run counter to an extremely powerful economic system that counts on enormous financial resources, which are obviously attractive to the consumer.

Callejas added that, as it has been seen in Honduras, it is important to continue supporting the appropriate groups on a national level so that they can continue the necessary activities required to endorse this effort.

Callejas mentioned that the national congress has organized a commission with this goal in mind, given the will and decisive interest on political and civilian levels to act jointly in this struggle. This commission, said Callejas, has the Presidency's and the government's total support.

The president said he hoped that the outcome of the commission's meeting would result in mechanisms to fight drug trafficking. Callejas added, however, "this

cannot be an isolated effort, because Central America does not have the resources or the mechanisms needed to face this complex situation."

In light of the above, Callejas urged those who can help face this problem—particularly the U.S. Government—to continue supporting this crusade through its appropriate organizations.

"The U.S. Government, one way or another, makes resources available and gives support, but it must do so on an even larger scale because the main problem is generated in its society," claimed Callejas. This, said Callejas, means that nations such as ours, facing economic problems, require "greater support in that specific area."

* Nationalists Guilty of 'Divisive' Practices

91CA0024B San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Sep 90 p 29

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Yesterday peasant leaders expressed their concern over the constant interference by the state and the National Party in their organizations, under the auspices of parallel boards of directors. The aim is said to be based on a desire to consolidate structures serving their purpose of maintaining themselves in the government.

They also declared that, if the central government continues these policies, they will start withdrawing from the so-called Agrarian Coordinating Group. They note that the latter has no reason to exist while on the one hand coordinating, and on the other, dividing the peasant organizations.

Lucas Aguilera, director of the ACAN [National Peasants Association]-UNC [National Union of Peasants], and Ines Fuentes, secretary general of the Honduran Peasant Organizations' Coordinating Committee (Cococh), voiced their concern at the government escalation against the peasant organizations. They are also troubled by the position assumed by the General Federation of Workers (CGT), which is abetting these divisive activities.

Aguilera and Fuentes cited as an example the division to which the National Union of Peasants (UNC), Cococh, the National Association of Public Employees (Andeph), and, finally, the Honduran Peasant Women's Federation (Fehmuc) have been subjected.

Aguilera remarked: "The CGT no longer responds to the interests of the working class; it responds to the interests of its board members." He also expressed the view that the CGT board members, by abetting the division of the workers organizations, are only seeking to continue retaining their leadership posts.

Aguilera commented: "The CGT as an institution is valid; its leaders are the ones who are out of step, because they no longer respond to the interests of the working class."

He added that, in view of these situations, "those among us who are leaders and who still believe in the working class must reconsider a new strategy for ourselves; otherwise, the labor movement will be headed for destruction." He declared: "As workers we must preserve and watch over the objectives for which the labor organizations were created."

Fuentes, for her part, claimed that, with this division of the peasant organizations, the government is seeking to consolidate its bases on the political party level, and to perpetuate itself in power.

She indicated that, for this purpose, "The CGT has set itself up as an organization of National Party activists, and as a stronghold of the National Party. If this is achieved with other labor and peasant federations it would presumably have enough solid bases to warrant the claim that, during the next term, the National Party, with backing from the low income sector, would win the elections again. They are investing heavily in this."

Julia Maria Saldana, president of the Fehmuc, shared the positions assumed by Aguilera and Fuentes. She charged that her organization is being subjected to direct intervention by the Callejas government through the CGT.

She also claimed that they are being threatened because they refuse to turn over the Fehmuc's assets to the parallel board of directors headed by Victoria Benavidez, which is directly backed by the CGT.

* Human Rights: Cofadeh Seeks Missing Persons

91CA0024A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 90 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Yesterday the Committee of Relatives of Missing Prisoners in Honduras (Cofadeh) held a demonstration in front of the Presidential House to demand that President Rafael Leonardo Callejas form a new commission to give an explanation regarding the missing persons.

According to Cofadeh, that commission must be comprised of a representative of the Church, another from the government, and a representative from each of the following people's organizations: the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (Codeh), the People's Organizations Coordinating Committee (CCOP), the United Workers Federation of Honduras (FUTH), the Unified People's Alliance (APU), the Platform for Struggle, and Cofadeh.

They point out to President Callejas that, "If this commission consists only of members of the Army, the results will be devious and manipulated; because do you think that they will investigate themselves if they are the guilty ones?"

The letter sent to President Callejas states: "As you are aware, there are currently 143 citizens who were forced to disappear by the Armed Forces of Honduras between 1979 to 1989."

It notes that Cofadeh's efforts to make the previous governments release true information on the missing persons proved futile; and that it is now appealing to the present government to "expose those responsible for all these disappearances, so that they can be brought to trial."

It continues: "On one occasion (at the beginning of your government) we were told in an interview that the disappearances did not occur during your government term. It was hinted at that we should "forget the missing persons and start anew." This is indecent and inhumane because various homes are suffering and will continue to suffer forever from the specter of the disappearance of their loved ones."

In its letter to President Callejas Cofadeh adds: "You cannot by any means shirk your responsibility to provide us with this information which we have waited for so long concerning the fate of our missing parents, children, spouses, siblings and companions. This is an unavoidable obligation on your part, because otherwise you would be demonstrating your complicity with those responsible for the disappearances. They are calmly mocking our grief, because they think that they have immunity."

In conclusion, it makes this request of President Callejas: "If the true information regarding the missing persons is not in the Presidential House files, our petition is that, using your good office, you form a commission comprised of honorable, credible individuals as promptly as possible."

Nicaragua

Dreyfus Views Negotiations With Paris Club

PA0512103490 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] During an exclusive interview granted to the newspaper LA PRENSA, Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus said that the Paris Club meeting to be held in Paris on 3 and 4 December is very important for Nicaragua.

Recently, Foreign Minister Dreyfus headed one of the government's economic missions to Europe in order to hold bilateral talks with countries that are friends of Nicaragua. During the talks, Dreyfus discussed the debt renegotiation and new foreign cooperation terms.

Dreyfus believes that the presence of the Nicaraguan economic cabinet, headed by the presidency minister at the preliminary meeting of the council of donors in Paris, is the most important and necessary action that Nicaragua has taken for its economic recovery.

Dreyfus said that the meeting will be attended by World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and IMF representatives with whom Nicaragua will discuss the payment of its multilateral debt (with financial organizations) as a prerequisite to obtaining new credit lines that would boost the Nicaraguan economy. Nicaragua's multilateral debt totals approximately $350 million, of which Nicaragua has obtained $50 million that was included in the package already approved by the United States.

In addition, Minister Dreyfus indicated that almost all of the donor countries that attended the meeting in Rome last June and new countries such as Japan and the Soviet Union will attend this meeting. Dreyfuss added that although Taiwan will not attend the meeting, it has already expressed an interest in contributing economically to Nicaragua.

The Nordic countries and Germany have also expressed their willingness to make contributions to Nicaragua and have put forth four points to make their contributions available to Nicaragua:

1. Nicaragua should present a short and long-term economic revitalization plan.

2. The industrialized countries (the Group of 10) should actively participate in the economic cooperation.

3. The World Bank, IDB, and IMF should grant Nicaragua access to their credit lines for countries in serious economic crises.

4. The World Bank, IDB, and IMF should offer medium- and long-term financial assistance.

The Nordic countries including the Netherlands, England, Germany, and France and IDB Director Enrique Iglesias told Dreyfus that they would give their support to Nicaragua.

Dreyfus told the representatives of the aforementioned countries that our country, in particular, needs consideration, because it is economically stagnated not only as a result of its huge debt, the destruction of its productive structures, and other economic problems, but also because of the damage from the recently ended civil war in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is currently experiencing a democratizing process after having lived under the dictatorial rule of various previous governments.

Another pressing need for Nicaragua is the reactivation of Central American economic integration.

Based on its peace efforts, the democratic advancement made by the new government, the demilitarization, and gradual reduction of the Army, Nicaragua is requesting a special refinancing of its debt.

Foreign Minister Dreyfus said: "The refinancing of the debt should be like forgiving the debt since that is the only way for Nicaragua to move on."

Dreyfus, who describes this as something new and creative to solve the country's economic chaos, said that Nicaragua needs a "fifth dimension" in its foreign economic relations.

Along this line, Nicaragua will attend the meeting of the Central American countries and Mexico to search for a regional solution to the energy problem since international oil prices could go up again if the Persian Gulf crisis worsens.

At the meeting in Mexico to be held next January, Nicaragua will establish a standard free trade agreement with Mexico. It will be very flexible and it would represent the opening of the Mexican market to Nicaraguan agricultural production.

New Foreign Minister Reportedly Appointed

PA0412175790 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] It was unofficially reported on 3 December that Alfonso Robelo has already been appointed foreign minister and that the government will announce the appointment soon. Alfonso Robelo will replace Enrique Dreyfus, whose performance as foreign minister does not meet the government's expectations. The same source said that Enrique Dreyfus will occupy another post in the foreign service.

Removal Denied; Chamorro To Visit U.S.

PA0412203790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1829 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report on interview with Presidency Information and Press Director Danilo Lacayo by unidentified reporter on 4 December; place not given]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro will travel to Miami in the United States on 5 December to participate, as a special guest, in the conference of Caribbean countries that will be held there this week. Danilo Lacayo, information and press director in the Presidency, said during an exclusive interview with Radio Nicaragua that President Chamorro will be accompanied by high-ranking cabinet officials.

The high-ranking presidential official also denied reports about Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus' alleged resignation.

Here is the interview with Danilo Lacayo:

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] We want to report that President Chamorro leaves tomorrow at 0930 in an Aeronica flight for Miami. She will stay in Miami from 5 to 6 December as a special guest at this meeting.

As you may remember, Nicaragua has been accepted as signatory to the Caribbean Basin which implies, in practical terms, that Nicaragua will be able to export nontraditional products to the United States without paying taxes to that country. For other Central American countries this has meant over $100 million per year.

In this new age of democracy, Nicaragua has been accepted as a signatory. The president will go to the meeting to explain her government's goals, to clearly explain that in this country the economic freedoms are respected—particularly in private enterprise—and to explain her goals during the different meetings she will hold with Latin American leaders.

She will also explain the political and economic situation in Nicaragua and what guarantees our country offers to foreign investment.

[Reporter] Who will go to Miami with the president?

[Lacayo] Deputy Presidency Minister Jose Adan Guerra, Economy and Development Minister Silvio de Franco, Cornap [expansion unknown] President Dayton Caldera, Communication and Transportation Minister Jaime Icabalceta, Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios.

[Reporter] In a few weeks another Central American presidents' summit will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica. We would like to know what proposals the Nicaraguan Government will have for the consolidation of the democratic process and economic stability in Central America.

[Lacayo] On the weekend of 15 and 16 December, the Nicaraguan President will meet with the other Central American presidents. The most important thing that the Nicaraguan president will explain is that Nicaragua is complying with the Esquipulas agreements.

As you well know, the Nicaraguan president has reduced the Army faster than any other Central American country. This week another 5,000 soldiers were retired.

In the second place, disarmament. President Chamorro has created a National Disarmament Commission, of which, coincidentally, former Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Price winner Oscar Arias Sanchez is honorary president.

This means that the Nicaraguan president will arrive with two extra playing cards in favor of this government, which demonstrate the goodwill of the country and the national government for the Central American peace process.

[Reporter] On another topic, Mr. Lacayo, a few days ago it had been unofficially reported that Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus had been removed from his office. What can you tell us regarding this?

[Lacayo] I would like to use this opportunity to call again on the media. I believe that lately the Nicaraguan media has been creating news out of nowhere, and they have been using sources that they say are linked to the government...[changes thought] No, they said unofficial sources. That is completely false. It is this government's policy to publicly and clearly announce the resolutions it makes.

Therefore, we want to tell the Nicaraguan people that Enrique Dreyfus is still the foreign minister and that, coincidentally, today, Tuesday, he will join us in the Democracy on the Move program at 1830 to analyze the

past and future of Nicaragua's foreign policy. So, we would like it to be clear that Enrique Dreyfus is the Chamorro government's foreign minister. [end recording]

Officers Prepare for Transition to Civilian Life

PA0412230490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Over 5,000 retired Army officers have formed an organization that will sponsor a series of social activities and carry out related functions in order to facilitate the transition to civilian life. The organization of retired officers is named after Carlos Nunez Tellez, of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate, in recognition of his staunch defense of the country's Constitution.

The former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officers have demanded that they be given 50,000 manzanas of land to farm and be guaranteed free medical attention for their families and themselves. The demands were presented by more than 400 representatives of the 5,000 retirees during the organization's first assembly in the national university auditorium.

Panama

Ex-Police Chief Herrera Escapes Naos Island

Phones Police Director Asvat

PA0512021190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0126 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 4 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Attorney General Rogelio Cruz confirmed the escape today of former Public Force Chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who has been under arrest in a prison in the capital since last October.

Herrera escaped at 1730 (2230 GMT) from Naos Island, where he was being held, aboard a small commercial helicopter, such as the kind used by tuna boats. Herrera's wife was also taken aboard the helicopter, Cruz explained to ACAN-EFE.

According to the attorney general, Herrera flew to the Tinajitas Garrison in the outlying sector of the capital. While there, he called Police Director Ebrahim Asvat, who succeeded him in the post.

Subsequently, Herrera left the garrison in a private vehicle for an unknown destination.

Cruz told ACAN-EFE that the escape "demonstrates that militarism is alive in Panama" and added that "Herrera symbolizes it."

Security Council Discusses Escape

PA0512020890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0140 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Former Panamanian Colonel Eduardo Herrera escaped from a maximum security prison located on Naos Island, near Panama City, this afternoon.

According to late reports, Herrera escaped in a small helicopter of the kind used by the tuna boats that are anchored in the waters of Panama Bay.

Reliable sources have told this radio station that Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon and Public Force Director Ebrahim Asvat met this evening at Naos Island. It is expected that Dr. Asvat will issue a communique on the incident within the next few hours.

At present, the Panamanian Public Security and National Defense Council is meeting at the Presidency to discuss the situation.

Rafael Rodriguez, Eduardo Herrera's lawyer, stated that he would withdraw from defending Col. Eduardo Herrera in view of the complications that his escape would bring to the case.

The situation in Panama City and the rest of the country is normal.

Ministry Bulletin on Escape

PA0512022490 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Press bulletin issued by the government and Justice Ministry on 4 December—read by announcer]

[Text] The National Police General Directorate reports that former Colonel Eduardo Herrera escaped from the prison on Naos Island at 1730 this afternoon. The escape was carried out with the help of a civilian aircraft, the unexpected landing of which on Naos Island was accompanied by a serious exchange of gunfire.

Former Col. Eduardo Herrera tried to muster support, unsuccessfully, from some police stations. After that frustrated attempt, he left for an unknown destination. All of this corroborates the seriousness of prior reports related to plans to disrupt the constitutional democratic order.

The National Police reiterate their respect for the Constitution and the laws of the Republic, and their unrestricted support for the national government.

Herrera 'Proclamation' on Escape

PA0512031190 Panama City La Exitosa in Spanish 0209 GMT 5 Dec 90

["Proclamation" by Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan to the Panamanian People, read via telephone relay by El SIGLO Director Carlos Singares—live]

[Text] Good evening, Aris [La Exitosa station owner Aris de Icaza]. Good evening radio listeners. Two people arrived here this evening and left the following proclamation with EL SIGLO. We will read it for the listeners of La Exitosa:

As a soldier who has dedicated his life to the service of the fatherland, and as a citizen respectful of true constitutional order, I am addressing the Panamanian people to state that I have left the prison where I had been held since 24 October, because of the abuses and arbitrary actions committed against me.

I had returned voluntarily from my travels abroad, which were connected to my work, to personally refute the slanderous charges leveled against me in my absence. Since then, however, I have been the victim of the unprecedented cruelty of an evil campaign in which the judicial authorities have placed themselves at the service of political orders dictated from the Palace of the Herons [presidential palace].

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has violated the functions conferred upon him by the Constitution and has become an implacable hangman, torturing me psychologically to force me into absurd and false confessions. Amid the dramatic Panamanian situation in which one of the worst of all economic and social crises are mingled with the government leaders' lack of moral credibility, I reiterate that I am a Panamanian patriot, committed to the anguish of people who do not have jobs and who have been forced into the streets to defend their social rights, which have been curtailed. We do not promote or desire social and political violence because we know that we Panamanians are peaceful and want to live amid law and order.

We publicly express our solidarity in the struggle against unemployment and misery, support the demand for an efficient and honest government, and support your hopes and dreams. We will continue to struggle for the implementation of an authentic democracy, without privileges or emotions, to rescue a free, dignified, and sovereign Panama.

[Dated] Panama City, 4 December 1990
[Signed] Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan

Endara, Arias Hold News Conference

PA0512074790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0410 GMT 5 Dec 90

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon with local and foreign reporters in Panama City on 4 December—recorded]

[Text] [Arias] Between 1720 and 1730 this afternoon, Mr. Eduardo Herrera escaped, using a helicopter and weapons, from Naos Island. It is important to stress that Herrera resorted to violence to attain his objective. Herrera, arriving in a helicopter, and approximately 15 other people who arrived in a vehicle tried to take over a police station in San Miguelito District. Approximately 15 men equipped with high- caliber weapons arrived at a police station guarded by five or seven policemen, since most of them were patrolling our city streets—which is where the community wants them to be. The armed men tried to cause trouble at the police station, but they failed to do so and were forced to detain the police station's director for a while. The men also stole some weapons from the police station. They then fled in an unknown direction, since they did not attain their objective, which was to take over the police station.

While in the station, the men tried to call other police stations in police zones outside Panama City, but they failed in their objective again. Although they identified themselves, the policemen who answered the phones did not even talk to them.

This has been an action carried out by a small group that resorted to violence, and it proves the truthfulness of the reports we provided some time ago regarding plans to subvert the country's constitutional order. These plans have failed and continue to fail, because the immense and overwhelming majority of the Panamanian people, including the public security members, want to live in democracy and peace. These are the basic facts, and for the time being we do not know Mr. Herrera's whereabouts.

[Reporter] It seems that we would have to [words indistinct] Mr. Herrera's guards of ineptitude, negligence, or complicity.

[Arias] We have not ruled out any possibilities. We are going to conduct an investigation, and the findings will lead us to forceful punishment if it comes to that.

[Reporter] Were there any casualties?

[Arias] No, no one was killed in this incident, thank God.

[Reporter] What is the situation in the other garrisons throughout the country?

[Arias] It is absolutely normal. I personally spoke with the police directors of each of the police zones and areas. They are determined to reaffirm their respect for constitutional order. All the police zones throughout the country have reported that the country is without disturbances.

[Reporter] What is your impression of Eduardo Herrera's announcement?

[Arias] Oh I see, I understand. Excuse me but it has been a long day. I believe it is completely absurd, because to speak of true constitutional order while resorting to violence is to laugh at the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] Do you have any information about whether this movement [word indistinct] Eduardo Herrera is

linked to the activities that the workers are carrying out between today and tomorrow?

[Arias] They are linked in Mr. Herrera's mind perhaps, but otherwise there is no indication of such a link.

[Reporter] What are the possibilities that retired colonel Herrera and those 15 armed men would try to conduct new armed actions against government facilities or military installations within the next few hours?

[Arias] I hope that they do not commit that crime against the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] Have you undertaken any type of security measures to protect the energy institute?

[Arias] We have undertaken all the necessary measures.

[Reporter] Are there any other Public Force members involved in this incident? Did any Public Force member help former Colonel Herrera? Do you know?

[Arias] Thus far we have detected the participation of three or four Public Force members who had links with Herrera and who seem to be part of the group. We, however, need to fully confirm that.

[Reporter] Are they officers?

[Arias] No.

[Reporter] Who are the suspects?

[Arias] For the time being I do not have any names to give you.

[Reporter] What was the exact time of the escape?

[Arias] Between 1715 and 1730.

[Reporter] Did he use a private helicopter or a Panamanian Air Force helicopter?

[Arias] He used a private helicopter. We are already tracking the pilot. There is an arrest warrant against him already. Mr. President.

[Endara] I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to speak as president of the Republic. I want to report to the nation through you, the media.

Today, especially this afternoon, there has been no public disorder. There was no disorder during the demonstrations or as a result of Mr. Herrera's stunt.

Secondly, and this is very important, institutional order has not been changed. The institutional order that Mr. Herrera claims to defend is being safeguarded by the actions we have taken.

I must also tell the citizens that we will safeguard order—constitutional order—everything for which we Panamanians have struggled. We will defend this at any cost.

Now I will speak as commander of the National Police. I must say that only a very small group of national policemen participated in this action with Mr. Herrera. Only three, maybe four, policemen participated. Maybe there was some complicity on the part of Herrera's jailers, but we are still talking about a very small number of policemen.

As commander of the police force, I want to point out the loyalty that the majority of the police demonstrated today.

Mr. Herrera tried to rouse the police. He did this through telephone calls by taking a small station in San Miguelito. He had to arrest the chief of that police station. He called several provinces and we know that he failed completely. Most of the people he called would not even accept the call.

He has made appeals over the internal communication of the National Police, and he has received no backing from any national policeman. I feel pride in being the commander of an institution that shows loyalty to its commander, to the Panamanian people, and to the Constitution, as the police did today.

I am very proud of this.

[Reporter] Have you asked the United States for military assitance?

[Endara] No. Remember I am a disciple of Arnulfo Arias. They are not going to expel me just like that.

[Reporter] Does this mean that there are guerrillas and that now the action will move to the mountains?

[Endara] No. I have not seen any guerrillas anywhere. This small commando group is not a guerrilla group. It is a group of three or four policemen acting with 10 or 11 civilians or former soldiers who decided to join Mr. Herrera in this adventure.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] I think that suitable measures are in place. I believe that some policemen are in bed by now.

[Reporter] Could there be a link between this and the labor union movement?

[Endara] There is no evidence in that direction. Mr. Herrera may think, as the government minister has said, that there is a link, but I am not aware of that.

[Reporter] Mr. President, there have been events on three occasions: In March 1987 [year as heard], there was a labor march; on 16 October there was another event; and today there was another. What measures will you undertake regarding the strike announced for tomorrow?

[Endara] You better not go on because you are convincing me.

[Reporter] How is it possible that a helicopter as small as the one being mentioned went to Naus and took Eduardo Herrera out as easily as it happened? How many people were guarding him? Was there a shootout?

[Endara] I cannot give you exact details, but this talk about a top security prison is just a journalistic term, if you excuse me. I do not think that the security at Naus was extraordinary. I do not know if the government minister has a different opinion in this regard.

[Reporter] What about U.S. complicity in Herrera's escape?

[Endara] I do not think there was any. You would have to prove that to me. I do not believe that.

[Reporter] Mr. President, is this connected with the coup attempt of a few weeks ago?

[Endara] I think this confirms that Herrera is a dangerous man, that we were right in demanding his resignation, and in denouncing the coup he was plotting. All of these events have confirmed that we were right, that all this talk about us being too sensitive was incorrect.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] several escapes: Mr. Gaitan, the Purcel brothers, Otilio Miranda, and now Mr. Eduardo Herrera?

[Endara] Remember that this has been an armed action. We have to investigate what happened in Naus. We are going to investigate if there was complicity. I want to emphasize tonight, however, that even if all the Naus policemen were accomplices, including the four policemen who accompanied Herrera in this command operation, the huge majority of the National Police remained loyal to constitutional order and to their commander, the president.

[Reporter] It is clear that this has not been only a mere conflict. [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] To answer your question, we do not know the number of people in Naos. I believe that the minister does not have that information either, do you?

[Arias] There are approximately 12 prisoners in the area of Naos.

[Reporter] Who are the security guards, and how many members make up the security guards in Naos?

[Arias] There are approximately 10 people now—the immense majority of the members of the police have been out on the streets taking care of the community. They surprised us by using the helicopter, that was unforeseen, and the firepower they used at the beginning.

[Reporter] What company does the helicopter belong to?

[Arias] It is a private helicopter. An investigation is under way. We have very serious indications about who the pilot is, but please allow me to leave the investigation and the details of the investigation in the hands of the competent judiciary authorities.

[Reporter] Have you had any information on the latest clues about the whereabouts of Colonel Herrera?

[Endara] There is a group in charge of this, but I do not know what the latest details are. We do not know.

[Reporter] Where was the last place that he was seen?

[Arias] We do not know.

[Reporter] Are you sure that he was in Tinajitas?

[Arias] I haven't the slightest doubt that he was in Tinajitas and tried to take over that police station and failed.

[Reporter] Did not they try to detain him [words indistinct]?

[Endara] On the contrary, the chief of the garrison, of the office was detained.

[Arias] Compared to a group of 15 people, armed with heavy caliber weapons, what there was at the police station of Tinajitas was six to seven policemen with the weapons now used by our policemen.

[Reporter] Can you say what weapons were stolen and the number of weapons?

[Arias] For the moment I cannot say because of the investigation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] Yes of course, I told you yes. I think he did want to stage a revolt. I think he wanted to do what this colonel, what's his name, Tejero, did in Spain.

[Reporter] How do you view the situation?

[Endara] As I can see there has not been any disruption of public order. There is no disruption of constitutional order. Everything is in perfect order. Constitutional order is guaranteed, thank God and thanks to the National Police who were loyal to the president.

[Reporter] Has an alert been issued to the police members?

[Endara] Yes, of course. It is a relative alert. There are policemen who have to sleep, they are human beings, and I think I will also go to sleep. You should too.

Herrera Said Controlling Police

PA0512060390 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0537 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] We have just received a telephone call from a member of the Public Force who has assured us that Colonel Eduardo Herrera has control of what is termed all of the police, the entire Public Force, at the national level. That was the information that has just been given

to us by a Public Force member who has called us here to say that Col. Herrera has called all of them, that now they are all hostages in their different garrisons. They say that he has taken all the garrisons of Panama City. So that you will see that we are not saying this, we will allow you to listen to the voice of the Public Force member who said that everything is under control. Everything is calm, there is no shooting, there is nothing happening right now, only that Col. Herrera controls the entire Public Force in the Republic of Panama.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Public Force member] All of the National Police are controlled throughout the Republic.

[Unidentified speaker] Has there been any announcement by Col. Herrera that you are all under his command?

[Public Force member] Yes, that is correct.

[Unidentified speaker] What has he said and what have you heard?

[Public Force member] Well, I cannot say, but everything is under his command.

[Unidentified speaker] In order words, you are being held there?

[Public Force member] Yes, we are under his command.

[Unidentified speaker] What is the situation there that you can describe.

[Public Force member] Everything is calm, everyone is calm. There is no bloodshed, everything is calm.

[Unidentified speaker] You do not know right now where Col Herrera is?

[Public Force member] He is in the city, throughout the garrisons.

[Unidentified speaker] There is no shooting anywhere?

[Public Force member] No, none. [end recording]

Herrera Control of Garrisons Denied

PA0512070190 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0553 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Homero Londono—live]

[Text] Deputy Presidency Minister Miguel Batista called us moments ago to express his total displeasure over a report we broadcast moments ago that, according to a Public Force member, Colonel Eduardo Herrera has occupied all garrisons. We said that was the case in the capital city, because we have not yet been able to confirm whether this is true in the Republic's countryside.

Batista called us to show his great displeasure and say that the report is false. We then telephoned a garrison and I asked a Public Force member about the situation there and he replied that everything was calm and under the control of my Colonel Eduardo Herrera. Those were the words of the Public Force member. I am not making this up. I want Miguel Batista to know this. We will now listen to what Batista said. He did not even let us ask him a question. Go ahead, Luis Carlos, run the tape:

[Begin Batista recording] This is Deputy Presidency Minister Miguel Batista. I am calling you from my office. The president, government and justice minister, and other ministers are here at the Presidency.

The report that you broadcast about the police stations in Panama City being occupied by Col. Herrera is completely false. A certain amount of responsibility falls on the person who broadcasts such a report. What indeed happened—and we have our personnel in different places under a state of alert, of course—is that there was a disturbance at the Ancon Garrison, but it has already been surrounded by U.S. personnel.

Therefore, your report is absolutely false and extremely dangerous, and I repeat, the station must assume a certain responsibility in this matter. Thank you very much. [end recording]

At that point Deputy Presidency Minister Miguel Batista abruptly hung up and did not even allow us ask other questions. I do not know why he did this. He is very displeased by the reports we are broadcasting.

We air such reports because so far there is no way for us to obtain information in this country when incidents like this take place. One goes to the Judicial Technical Police and is told that the director is at a meeting or that he just left. No one there knows anything. One goes to other Public Force offices and he is told that the director just left and the personnel claim to not know what is going on; they say that there is complete calm.

We continue to receive calls, however, because this is the station that the people listen to, because this is the station that speaks the truth. This is why we broadcast that report minutes ago that a Public Force member.... [changes thought] and I later called another garrison and we were told that everything was following the orders of Col. Eduardo Herrera. It was another Public Force member who answered the telephone this time; it was not the same one that you listened to in our recording.

This leads us to wonder: What is happening? Does Eduardo Herrera control the garrisons? Stay tuned. We will continue to report the happenings to you. We will continue to contact other garrisons to find out what is happening.

Ancon Surrounded by U.S. Troops

PA0512070590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0626 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 5 Dec (EFE)—Deputy Presidency Minister Miguel Batista has said that a Panama City police station, where a seditious movement in favor of

colonel Eduardo Herrera would have taken place, has been surrounded by U.S. troops tonight.

Through a phone call to a local station, Batista reported the presence of U.S. troops around the Ancon police station, whose members would have adopted a position favoring former Public Force chief colonel Eduardo Herrera. Herrera escaped from a Panamanian jail yesterday.

An Ancon police station member confirmed over the phone that the station "is controlled" by Herrera and he added that the building is surrounded by U.S. troops coming from the U.S. military bases in Panama.

Panama City Security Situation

PA0512081490 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0634 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Account of unidentified reporter from streets of Panama City]

[Text] We have just toured Panama City. We verified that security guards and civilians hired by store owners are closely guarding Central Avenue stores. In addition, there are many people at the Panama City-Colon bus station in Calidonia. Apparently, many of them were unable to catch their buses. We were told that the last Panama City-Colon bus left at 0030. We have also learned that these buses have joined the strike that began as of 0000 tonight.

Similarly, there are checkpoints at the corner of the Istmeno Institute and the Alliance Institute on 4th Street North, which leads toward the Presidency. There is a vehicle placed on that street near the Presidency. We could also see members of the Public Security Force near the Presidency.

The Avenue A and Modelo Jail area are completely normal. We could see Public Force members or other heavily armed people near the Balboa Police station, which is located across from the YMCA along the road that leads to the Amador Causeway. From a distance we could see many armed people. We could not verify whether they are Public Force members or U.S. Army troops.

We would like to point out that there are U.S. HMMV's [High Mobility Multipurpose Vehicle] and heavily armed soldiers along the road from Albrook Air Force Base to the Public Force headquarters. The road is blocked by an HMMV that has been placed in the middle of the street. We saw 10 to 12 people raising their arms and waving handkerchiefs. They were trying to get from Albrook to the supply market where they have their fresh produce stands. These Panamanians have been held in that area, holding their handkerchiefs, and are being searched. They are not allowed to cross toward the market area.

An HMMV has been placed in the middle of the street across from the National Traffic Department building. The vehicle is surrounded by heavily armed U.S. troops. This is at the end of Frangipani Avenue at the corner where the Traffic Deparment is located. We did not see any units around the headquarters of the Technical Judicial Police located along the road to Gorgas Hospital. This is near the railroad station.

Herrera Said Holding Minister Lima

PA0512070990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0642 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Columns of armored vehicles and many U.S. troops have been surrounding the main National Police and Technical Judicial Police headquarters in Panama City early this morning, where, according to unofficial sources, rebel Colonel Eduardo Herrera is located.

The U.S. soldiers prevented ACAN-EFE reporters from going to the area and told them only that "there are problems."

Panamanian political sources have indicated that Ramon Lima, Panamanian deputy government and justice minister, is in the hands of the rebel colonel at the National Police headquarters.

The deployment of U.S. troops took place shortly after Panamanian President Guillermo Endara announced last night that Herrera's attempted "armed rebellion" had failed. Yesterday, Herrera conducted a spectacular helicopter escape from a jail in which he had been held since 25 October. Herrera had been charged with heading an attempted coup.

Mayor Denies Lima Hostage

PA0512080090 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0657 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Panama City Mayor Guillermo Cochez by Homero Londono in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Londono] Mr. Mayor, go ahead.

[Cochez] Thank you very much Homero Londono. Over KW Continente, I wish to issue the following official report on what is happening. First, it is not true that the country's garrisons are supporting former Colonel Herrera. I have received information stating the contrary from all over the country and the various provincial capitals such as Penonome, Chitre, Santiago, and Los Santos. We have been told that there is absolute calm in that area of the country and received expressions of total support for the democratic process that the country is enjoying, headed by President Guillermo Endara.

I can also report that Deputy Government and Justice Minister Ramon Lima is at the Presidency of the Republic and is not, as it was reported, being held by

former Col. Herrera. I believe that is time for us Panamanians to think about what political system we want for ourselves and our children. We either chose democracy or militarism.

I believe that tonight's action by former Col. Herrera confirms—as President Endara and Vice President Arias Calderon said—that there was indeed an antidemocratic conspiracy. The events also confirm the great democratic fervor of the National Police, because only a few of its members have supported former Col. Herrera. This shows that there is democratic fervor and that Panamanians reject militarism. This development has taught us a great lesson. This is similar to what happened in the Republic of Argentina yesterday.

I believe that situations like this help to consolidate Panama's democratic process because they uncover all those who were conspiring for various reasons to prevent the consolidation of the democratic process in our country.

I thank you for this opportunity. I report to all Panamanians that all countryside garrisons are under the absolute control of the democratic forces that support President Endara and the Panamanian democratic process. I can also confirm that the deputy government and justice minister is at the Presidency of the Republic at this time. Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha is also there. We hope that the city will remain completely calm over the next few hours because we Panamanians want to go on with our lives; we want to develop a political system that will give us democracy, justice, and liberty, for which we struggled for such a long time.

As soon as I have more information, I will call this station. Thank you very much, Homero.

[Londono] Mr. Cochez, have you asked for any U.S. military assistance to control in case...[changes thought] since you said that there is absolute calm, to prevent some people loyal to Col. Eduardo Herrera from occupying some of these garrisons. Have you requested U.S. assistance?

[Cochez] As far as I know, it has not been requested. The only place where there are some forces loyal to former Col. Herrera is the Ancon Garrison. We hope, however, that that sole hideout, which is housing certain elements loyal to former Col. Herrera, will also change their negative attitude toward the democratic process soon.

That is the only place that we can confirm the presence of any people supporting the antidemocratic attitude of former Col. Eduardo Herrera.

[Londono] Mayor Cochez we also aired a message at dawn today that both parties are made up of Panamanians and that we must look after the well-being of our country and that this is the only thing that matters. We repeat that the report we aired about Deputy Minister Ramon Lima was read from an ACAN-EFE dispatch. Go ahead if you have something to say. [The phone call is interrupted.]

Journalist Reports Hostages Released

PA0512085690 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0717 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Now we have Dr. Miguel Antonio Bernal, who has something to say:

[Begin Bernal recording] Homero, I think that the work you and your team have carried out tonight is extremely important in view of the absence of serious information on the part of government organizations regarding the serious moments being lived in the country. The attitude of hiding information is causing us more harm. I am in a position to report to the Radio KW Continente listeners that Mr. Ramon Lima and Mr. Asvat, as well as Mr. Edmundo Dante Dolphy, were among the civilians who were being held hostage at the Ancon Garrison by the rebel soldiers.

Mr. Ramon Lima and Mr. Edmundo Dante Dolphy were released a few minutes ago. They carry a message with a list of demands that the rebel soldiers are making of President Endara's government. I do not know why the government does not provide this information to the public, because what is at stake here is the 21-year struggle of the Panamanian people against militaristic intentions. Therefore, all citizens must realize that we have to be sentinels to protect our own rights. I consider this important information. It is also true that the Panamanian Government—and I have the information directly from the newspaper LA PRENSA—that the Panamanian Government requested the intervention of the U.S. Government. That is why the U.S. armored vehicles and troops have occupied strategic positions inside and outside the perimeter that is permitted them according to the existing treaties. I do not see why this information is kept from the Panamanian people. It is also true that the revolt has reached more than one garrison and not police stations, as the public has been led to believe. I think that there must be a greater sense of responsibility and that this is not the moment to be deceiving or misinforming anyone. We should not have to wait to see what is happening in Panama from a foreign news agency, regardless of which one it is. The situation is very grave. As a responsible citizen and as a staunch defender of the cause for which we have been fighting, we should not have to pay for the ineptitude and irresponsibility of government officials who have been deceiving us, telling us that there was a demilitarization here. Here we have the real result of the situation.

It appears to me that the least we can do is to alert the citizens and ask them, in all patience and responsibility, to prevent unnecessary and grave incidents, that they should not send their children to school because we cannot risk the future of our country in that manner. I think it is the government's responsibility—if there is still a responsible body in the government—to assume

the task of leadership and not only explain to the citizens the truth about what is happening, but also to issue serious instructions on what should and should not be done at this moment. We cannot risk our citizens. We cannot risk our children. Since the people do not know what is happening, there has been a wave of rumors, which can be even more harmful, as has been happening since this afternoon when the government knew what was happening with Mr. Eduardo Herrera and other rebels and the information was not given. I believe, Londono, that you and your team of workers have assumed a serious responsibility that must be applauded. But at the same time, it is necessary that the government officials be told to overcome their inefficiency and irresponsibility and to be, above all, serious persons who speak the truth, even if it is painful, and not to come out now with false security measures when they have not been able to apply them, have deceived us, and speak of police stations, when we all know that what exists here are garrisons.

I repeat, Mr. Dante Dolphy and Ramon Lima have been released, after being held by the rebel commanders, to deliver a list of petitions. In other words, we are seeing a repetition here of an Argentine-type of revolt in which soldiers have risen, more than with the intention of landing a coup, to achieve the recovery of privileges that have been curtailed in a certain way.

Therefore, Mr. Londono and listeners of KW Continente, I think that we Panamanians are all obliged to demand that we not be kept misinformed and that we be told truthfully if the intervention of the U.S. Army was requested, that we not be told any more lies so that we can know what we Panamanians are going to do in this situation that we have before us. The situation is confusing and the confusion has increased. If they are going to establish a national radio network, they should also say so, so that the people will not be afraid and not be further traumatized. Thank you, Mr. Londono. [end recording]

Herrera Said Negotiating Departure

PA0512080290 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0735 GMT 05 Dec 90

[Interview with National Sports Institute Director Hernan Arias by radio announcer Homero Londono—live]

[Text] [Londono] We have National Sports Institute Director Hernan Arias on the phone. Go ahead, Hernan.

[Arias] Good morning, Homero Londono. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk to the nation and give an official, last minute report. Approximately 100 people loyal to Mr. Herrera took over the Ancon Police Headquarters. They are holding a number of people hostage. However, they have been completely surrounded by U.S. troops. At present, they [not further identified] are holding talks to reach an agreement concerning Herrera's departure from the country.

We ask all radio listeners to remain calm, because nothing has happened.

[Londono] Could we ask you whether Colonel Eduardo Herrera is inside those headquarters?

[Arias] Yes, he is. He is currently talking with a U.S. official, negotiating his departure from the country.

Herrera Denies Coup Attempt

PA0512085490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0822 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 5 Dec (EFE)—Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who escaped from prison today and is remaining with some 100 officers and loyal members at the Panama Police General Directorate, has denied that he is heading a coup d'etat and said he is merely a spokesperson for the discontent that exists among numerous units of the Public Force.

I do not think we will have a coup because the units want reconciliation. We do not want bloodshed or anyone killed. We want respect, Herrera said.

Interviewed this morning by a group of correspondents at the principal headquarters of the Panamanian police, which is surrounded by U.S. troops, Herrera announced an 11-point platform in which he requests respect and recognition of the dignity of the Public Force institution and its members.

Herrera Explains Reason for Escape

PA0512103090 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0835 GMT 5 Dec 90

[News conference by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera with local and foreign reporters in Panama City on 5 December—live]

[Text] Colonel Eduardo Herrera made statements to the foreign press and to Radio KW Continente reporters at the Ancon Public Force Headquarters a few minutes ago. Let us listen to his statements.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] described by President Endara as an attempted coup.

[Herrera] First, I want to clarify that I was detained in Naos on charges presented against me. I returned from Peru to clarify the situation. I have been detained on that island for almost a month and a half. They never conducted an investigation into my case.

As I was having dinner today, I was surprised when a helicopter picked me up and removed me from the jail. At first I thought they were.... [changes thought] I did not know who those people were until they took off their masks and I realized they were Public Force troops. I asked them what the situation was and they told me that they had many problems within the institution. They said that they felt humiliated to a certain extent and that they wanted me to be their spokesman.

[Reporter] Colonel Eduardo Herrera, people have commented that you are holding government officials hostage here. What can you say about that?

[Herrera] That is not true. It is absolutely false. We have no reason to hold any government official hostage. I believe this country suffered very much during the Noriega dictatorship, against which I also fought. We came here to contribute to the country's reconciliation and reconstruction. We have not held anyone hostage. There has been no shooting either. The only thing here is discontent on the part of the Public Force members because of the way in which [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Herrera] A few hours ago we met with Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha, Deputy Government and Justice Minister Lima, and the deputy governor, I think. They left for the Presidency to talk to the president. They met with the Public Force members who are here and who explained a number of problems to them. They admitted that the government has made some mistakes.

[Reporter] How many Public Force members do you have?

[Herrera] We currently control all of the country's garrisons.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Herrera] There is a list of petitions to which you can have access.

[Reporter] What are the demands?

[Herrera] They are demanding respect. As I told some journalists a while ago, we need respect in this country. I believe that the 11 October 1968 coup took place because the civilian politicians showed no respect for the National Guard. The 20 December coup, or invasion, took place because of the disrespect that the military showed toward the civilians. We do not want to return to Noriega's times.

[Reporter] How long do you plan for this situation to continue?

[Herrera] We are waiting for a commission that the Presidency will send to talk to us.

[Reporter] Colonel, are you willing to return to jail?

[Herrera] I believe I am entitled to an equitable investigation. I spent a month and a half in jail. I returned from Peru for the authorities to begin the necessary investigations. I was charged with having [word indistinct] some weapons. The weapons had already surfaced. I had no reason to steal any weapons. I was also accused of.... [changes thought] that was presented by Otilio Miranda, who used his intelligence to get out of jail and he really [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Colonel, you said that you are controlling most of the country's garrisons. Could you give us details on this.

[Herrera] We have received calls from the various military zones of the country to [word indistinct] our movement. They have been suffering from the same things that the Panama City Public Force members have been experiencing.

[Reporter] But is this a movement to demand [words indistinct]?

[Herrera] I do not believe we have anything to do with the actions of the painted-faces [Argentine rebels]. We are Panamanians and we have a government of reconciliation.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] are they labor or professional demands?

[Herrera] The problem is that they are armed workers [words indistinct] with a military coup or if it had been conducted with a violent intention aimed at the Presidency, we would have held Deputy Minister Lima here. In other words, we do not want [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Do you agree with Panama's demilitarization?

[Herrera] We do not believe that Panama needs an army. I have said that many times before. If Panama is going to have a police force, it must be one that is respected and not humiliated. Policemen should receive the benefits given to people who earn very little and who risks their lives. Policemen are not being treated the way they should.

[Reporter] Colonel, do you intend to occupy President Endara's post or not.

[Herrera] I think the president has too many problems for me to occupy his post.

[Reporter] Colonel, in other words this cannot be described as an action you have promoted?

[Herrera] I will repeat this to you. I was having dinner on Naos when Public Force units took me out of the jail in a helicopter and asked me to be their spokesman and present their demands to the government. [end recording]

Public Force Members List Demands

PA0512094990 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0904 GMT 5 Dec 90

["List of demands" from members of the Public Force at the Ancon Barracks in Panama City—live; read by reporter Jenny Lee Martinez; all numbers as heard]

[Text] The list of demands made by the members of the Public Force are:

1. Respect for:

1. The dignity of the members of the Public Force and of the institution;

2. The rank and command positions of the institution;

3. Lawfully acquired rights, such as accumulated vacation time; extra pay; payment of the 13th month bonus; and full payment of salaries resulting from promotions;

4. The economic benefits to which the relatives of fallen members of the Public Force are entitled;

2. To reestablish achievements related to health, social well- being, economic services, legal advice, and respect for internal regulations;

3. A decent salary in line with the cost of living;

4. To guarantee that the retirement benefits of the members of the Public Force will be respected once they have served 25 years;

5. The drafting of a basic law to back, protect, and rule the functioning of the Public Force;

6. Promotions and recognition based on seniority and skills;

7. The continuation of low-cost housing projects for the members of the Public Force;

8. The creation of suitable and honorable installations for fulfilling the functions of the Public Force and the acquisition of equipment and materiel to guarantee social peace and security;

9. The establishment of special groups to promote and to strictly comply with what is established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties;

10. To maintain a clear, apolitical, and nationalistic position and not to follow political party guidelines;

11. To fulfill obligations with, and to pay honor to, the companeros who fell on 20 December 1989 defending the fatherland.

This is the list of demands being made by the members of the Public Force at the Ancon Barracks.

President Closes Some Schools

PA0512094690 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0924 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Announcement by President Guillermo Endara Galimany on 5 December in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] Good morning, I address the parents of the metropolitan area and San Miguelito to ask them not to send their children to school today, 5 December. It is regrettable that we have to make this request and that we have had to declare closed the educational centers of these two districts, but we are doing so as a precautionary and protective measure in view of the irresponsible actions carried out last night by a group of former soldiers, who are holding several members of the National Police hostage.

As soon as total normalcy returns, which will be very soon thanks to the loyal support of a large majority of the members of the Public Force, we will announce the resumption of classes in the capital district and in San Miguelito.

Classes will be held normally in schools throughout the rest of the country. Thank you very much.

Herrera Interviewed on Situation

PA0512114990 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0945 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with former Public Force Chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera by Celso Contreras from the National Police Central Headquarters in Panama City on 5 December]

[Text] We are at the National Police Central Headquarters. A few minutes ago, Colonel Eduardo Herrera spoke with a high-ranking U.S. Army officer at the entrance of this building.

We want to reiterate that the order and calm that exist here are noteworthy. Everything is quiet. Journalists go around unimpeded. We thank the people here for lending us their telephones to allow us to seriously report on what is happening.

We also want to say that the members of the National Police are repeatedly demanding respect. They want respect for their rights, which they say have been violated to a great extent. Col. Herrera now reports on his talks with the U.S. officer.

[Begin recording] [Herrera] [Words indistinct] as usual he does not want the spilling of blood. We are trying to reach an agreement.

[Reporter] What are they proposing?

[Herrera] They are not proposing anything. They are just waiting for Vice Minister Lima to return from the Presidency with an answer from the president.

[Reporter] Do you think he will come now?

[Herrera] I think Vice Minister Lima is now at the checkpoint with the media and then he will be coming here.

[Reporter] Col. Herrera, it has been said that if your demands are not met, the police could start a sit-down strike. Is there such a possibility?

[Herrera] They are [words indistinct] and they can go on strike as well.

[Reporter] There is something more important. It has been said that you could take to the mountains.

[Herrera] I think that the days of fighting in the mountains are over. They got me out of jail to struggle for them. [words indistinct] I think that if there is a struggle, a struggle we do not want and that should not happen, such a struggle would take place in the capital.

[Reporter] Spokesmen for the government say that you have dedicated yourself to demanding social benefits because you do not have the backing of the other barracks.

[Herrera] That is false. We have the support of most of the barracks. You were not here a while ago, but what happened is that Public Force troops took me out of jail in a commando operation that, in the beginning, had me confused because I was not sure of what was happening. Afterward, they told me that they wanted me to be their spokesman in filing their demands.

[Reporter] Are there any Public Force units being held here?

[Herrera] No civilians or police are being held.

[Reporter] Is this a movement of young officers, headed by you?

[Herrera] I believe this is a movement by the troops, the ones who suffer the most. Officers always have better survival capabilities.

[Reporter] What do you expect in the future?

[Herrera] I lived in exile almost 12 years, and not because I liked it, but because I was not wanted in Panama. Lately, the newspapers have published much slander. I want to make it clear that I want democracy for Panama, to have a Panama where everyone can live in peace and harmony, where there is no more killings, such as that of Dr. Spadafora—a Panama where the people really love their Public Force. Panama is a small country and it is difficult not to find a civilian relative in a demonstration. This is what the Public Force wants—to respect and to be respected. The days of the dictatorship are over. Those were bleak days. If we really have a reconciliation government, then reconciliation is what must prevail.

[Reporter] Colonel, Vice Minister Ramon Lima has said that constitutional order has been broken, but you have said that all you want is respect.

[Herrera] This is what the members of the Public Force want. I think that if this is accomplished, then we Panamanians [words indistinct]. Once, when I was ambassador in Israel, for example, I brought some Israelis with me to visit the country. After they toured the country, they told me: Ambassador, in Israel we have the Holy Land, but you in Panama have a blessed land. There should be no poor people in this country. I am greatly pained to see, as we saw on Mr. Julio Miller's television program, people fighting like vultures, and to witness a demonstration by so many workers, like that of today.

We have had serious problems. This is true, but we have to improve the situation. We are looking for ways. If all of us Panamanians try to see what is needed, if things are well distributed here, we would not have Panamanians starving while others eat their fill.

[Reporter] Col. Herrera, we know that there are several Public Force members who are here by force and who do not agree with what is happening. Are they free to leave?

[Herrera] I have told the officers that anyone wanting to leave should leave. This is not a coup d'etat. This is a moment of recovery. I am a retired officer. All of you know that I was forced to retire, but since the units put me at the head of this struggle, I have to demonstrate. [sentence as heard].

[Reporter] Col. Herrera, if the Panamanian Government were to ask the U.S. troops to remove you from here, what would you do?

[Herrera] I do not think the U.S. Government would make the same error it made on 20 December. There is no exact count yet on how many people died. This is a big problem for the United States and it is a source of pain for us Panamanians. This is why I say that 20 December should be a day of reconciliation [words indistinct] may think it was a liberation. [end recording]

Solider Defends Herrera; Lima Comments

PA0512130990 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1111 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone relay by reporter Roberto Cubillas from the Ancon National Police Headquarters in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Cubillas] Good morning, listeners of KW Continente. Over 100 National Police members commanded by Mr. Eduardo Herrera have taken control of the Ancon National Police Headquarters. Herrera claims to be in command of all of the country's police garrisons.

We have statements by one of the soldiers—who are loyal to Herrera—who are guarding the Ancon Police Headquarters with combat rifles and heavy-caliber weapons:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Let me tell you something. We, the Panamanian soldiers, do not want to return to the Noriega times. We want respect. We do not want the corrupted power that the previous military chiefs had here. That is why we do not have one single pro-Noriega soldier in this movement. Only troops and young officers have joined our movement. We have been most affected by this situation. We were affected during Noriega's time and we are being affected now with the democratic government. Why? We have been subjected

to all forms of humiliation and they [not further identified] wanted to go on humiliating us. Dr. Arias Calderon said that he is going to renew the Public Force, because he is going to graduate 1,000 [word indistict] new policemen each year. What does that mean? That means he wants to dismiss us. We have acted under the command of Colonel Herrera in view of that situation. We will take this movement to the very end. If we have to leave this place and go to the mountains we will do so.

Let me clarify one thing, however. Endara's presidency has to reflect on the situation. He has to give us a true commander who respects his personnel and who does not act like Dr. Asvat. If that is the case, we will respect the president and he will be able to complete his presidential term in peace and tranquility with all Panamanians.

[Cubillas] Would you agree to have Colonel Herrera as the Public Force commander?

[Unidentified speaker] My colonel has never said he wants to be the Public Force commander. He is leading our group, because this would be his last offering as a soldier. He has suffered the persecution of the dictatorship and he is now being persecuted by the democratic government. He wants to help all the soldiers who believe in him. He has merits as a commander. Nobody has ever been able to charge him with corruption or with being a pro-Noriega man.

[Cubillas] So far you have maintained a peaceful attitude. If the government does not heed your requests, would this situation turn into a military confrontation?

[Unidentified speaker] All police zones have joined us. That is up to the president and the government and justice minister. If his intransigence reaches that point, I do not know what may happen. I do tell you that our personnel is willing. We have this attitude based on the climate the government created because we all believed the patriotic call issued to us on 26 and 27 [not further explained] to come here. We thought things were going to change but no, we are worse than ever.

[Cubillas] Will you take this matter to the very end?

[Unidentified speaker] To the very end, I repeat. [end recording]

[Cubillas] Meanwhile, Deputy Government and Justice Minister Ramon Lima and National Police Director Ebrahim Asvat were in the area, approximately 500 meters from the Ancon Garrison, and we have some statements by Lima.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Lima] ...is in command. He will make the decisions which he deems necessary at the right moment.

[Cubillas] What can you tell us about the deployment of U.S. forces as well as of Public Force members? Are you planning to carry out any operation to...?

[Lima] I cannot give you any advance information on that.

[Cubillas] Is this simply a security measure around the area?

[Lima] You can take it as a security measure.

[Cubillas] But there could be a contingency. There could be a confrontation with those who are armed.

[Lima] We do not expect that kind of confrontation. I think we can solve this problem peacefully.

[Cubillas] Does it mean that this is taken as a turn toward a discussion or some kind of negotiation?

[Lima] That is one of the possibilities.

[Cubillas] The possibility for what?

[Lima] I cannot tell you because I have not been involved in that part of the negotiation at the Presidency.

[Cubillas] The Public Force is under the command of the Government and Justice Ministry. Public Force members accuse the authorities of alleged ill treatment. What can you tell us about that?

[Lima] The ill treatment they report is a lack of respect for policemen. This is what they said. It is a matter that has become evident through the media some times.

[Cubillas] Who are the U.S. mediators here?

[Lima] The U.S. mediators are simply blocking off the road and are giving support to the National Police. [end recording]

Colon Governor: Situation Normal

PA0512120790 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1125 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Statement by Colon Province Governor Jose (Hook)—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...I want to report that the situation here is normal. Rebel groups called officers here to join the rebellion, but the officers did not join. They remained loyal to the constitutional government. I have remained with them all night long. I am at the Colon City barracks.

At the outskirts of the city, everything is quiet. We expect that today we will not have transportation service because the people are probably afraid due to the crisis we are enduring. I ask all the people of Colon to remain loyal and to continue backing President Endara.

I ask businessmen to remain in their businesses, on the alert to defend their businesses. We, the loyal government officials, will defend our right to govern this country in democracy and liberty. This is what we are doing now.

Police Support Civilian Authorities

PA0512143790 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1212 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Report by Roberto Dumas Castillero from the Judicial Technical Police Headquarters in Panama City—live telephone relay]

[Text] [Castillero] We are here at the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] Headquarters to tell you that the climate here is tense. We want to tell you that the roads with access to the Public Force Headquarters are completely closed. There are U.S. Army, PTJ, and Public Force members there.

RPC Radio contacted Captain Humberto Macea, who discussed the situation.

[Begin recording] [Macea] The real situation is that Colonel Herrera yesterday afternoon was taken from Flamenco Island. He then became involved in a task of confusing and deceiving. I want to see how he is going to solve the police personnel problem and the problems of the country. I want to know how he is going to do that. Let him explain. Right now, he is holding a group of officers hostage. He is also keeping subordinate personnel inside the National Police Directorate.

[Castillero] How many officers, specifically?

[Macea] I have no idea.

[Castillero] Of various ranks?

[Macea] Of every rank.

[Castillero] Will there be a confrontation. Is a confrontatin inevitable?

[Macea] I do not think we will get to that. I think there are very wise people there who will think it over.

[Castillero] What is the stand of the PTJ officers?

[Macea] The position of the personnel here is one of total obedience to civilian authorities through the president of the Republic.

[Castillero] They say that they control several garrisons and have the support of several officials in various places.

[Macea] Well, let them have it. I do not know. I really do not know. [end recording]

[Castillero] Dear friends of RPC radio, that was Capt. Macea who is in charge of the troops surrounding the PTJ Headquarters.

We again tell drivers that the roads with access to the Public Force sector are completely blocked. As we have already reported, the U.S. Southern Command, PTJ, and Public Force troops are on alert there.

U.S. Support for Endara Conveyed

PA0512133290 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1218 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Statement by Presidential Spokesman Rene Hernandez in Panama City—live telephone relay]

[Text] Thank you to our friends in this great national network. We want to tell you that President Guillermo Endara Galimany has been kept informed about the incident. We have reports from all the provinces. The situation is normal, except for at the National Police Headquarters.

The president is receiving many telephone calls and telegrams supporting his government work. Various organizations are asking the small group of soldiers and policemen headed by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera to change their plans and strengthen democracy in Panama.

We also received a note from the U.S. Government, through its embassy in Panama, which states: We reiterate our support for the constitutional and democratic government of the Republic of Panama. In response to your request and in defense of democracy and the constitutional government, the U.S. Government has provided sufficient U.S. Armed Forces to support the Panamanian National Police in their mission to secure the area surrounding the Headquarters seized by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

We repeat this communique sent by the U.S. Government through the embassy here in Panama: The government of President George Bush reiterates its support for the constitutional and democratic government headed by President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

In response to your request and in defense of democracy and the constitutional government, the U.S. Government has provided sufficient U.S. Armed Forces to support the Panamanian National Police in their mission to secure the area surrounding the Headquarters seized by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

We have continued to receive calls, communiques, and telegrams supporting the president. We take this opportunity to tell mayors, governors, and corregimiento representatives to call 25-1015 or 27- 5036 of this great national network to send your message of support for the president and democracy.

Arias Calderon on Situation

PA0512152390 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1257 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon by Mayin Correa in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Correa] Good morning, Dr. Arias.

[Arias] Good morning, Mayin.

[Correa] Could you...[changes thought] my program usually...

[Arias, interrupting] Could you please speak louder. I can barely hear you.

[Correa] Let us see. Can you hear me now?

[Arias] I can hear you better now.

[Correa] Dr. Arias. This program is usually retransmitted to other provinces. Although the station has been retransmitting reports on recent developments, when we begin the program, we summarize the latest reports. Could you please give us an account of what has been happening since yesterday?

[Arias] Sure. From the moment former Colonel Herrera escaped from Naos Island—through an operation carried out by a group of soldiers close to him, with the aid of a helicopter and weapons—there have been several incidents. He has tried to obtain the support of all the National Police in his efforts to disrupt the democratic constitutional order. Once again, he has failed. I can assure you that all police stations in the metropolitan area have reaffirmed their respect for the democratic constitutional order and their support for President Endara's government. All police zones in the country have done likewise. The group that followed former Col. Herrera—approximately 60 to 80 people, the exact number is not clear yet—are currently confined to the police headquarters in Ancon. The building is currently surrounded by troops loyal to the National Police; they are supported by U.S. troops.

This is more than absurd. This is a criminal action against Panamanian democracy and against the great desire that Panamanians have to live in peace and freedom. Thank God, the great majority of National Police members have reaffirmed their loyalty to the constitutional order and to President Endara. We are receiving reports from various parts of the country confirming that the democratic situation is normal. We are also receiving messages reaffirming support for democracy and constitutional order. This situation can give us a chance to reinforce our commitment to democracy and constitutional order and our support for our country's legitimate government.

[Correa] Dr. Arias, there are some questions about the departure of former Col. Herrera.

[Arias] Please speak louder Mayin, as your voice seems to be getting weaker.

[Correa] Very well. Can you hear me now? People have been asking questions since last night. The jail on Naos Island is located at the canal entrance. There is a radar station at the hill near the jail, where messages are received from ships. I understand that it also has to do with security at the entrance to the canal. The gunfire from the helicopter gunship, which caused an armed incident, was heard in the Amador area? I received a call from someone who heard the shooting. How could the United States, which is always ready to help preserve the country's stability, permit this incident?

[Arias] It was a private helicopter which was rented at Paitilla Airport. The pilot is already under arrest. He is a private pilot. The helicopter was rented ostensibly to take pictures of the worker's march yesterday. After the helicopter took off, one of the occupants forced it to land on Naos Island at gunpoint. Since it was a commercial helicopter, it could fly over some areas without raising suspicions. There is no doubt about the support that the U.S. Government is giving to the Panamanian democratic government headed by President Endara. There has been a clear statement by U.S. authorities. Therefore, any doubts about that can be completely ruled out. Actions speak for themselves.

[Correa] What is the relation between the incidents related to the military uprising and yesterday's march?

[Arias] During the night some union leaders visited former Col. Herrera at the National Police headquarters in Ancon before it was completely surrounded to prevent anyone from entering or leaving the building. This shows that there was some degree of complicity among some labor leaders and plans to disrupt the constitutional order by former Col Herrera.

[Correa] Obviously, democracy is being supported by the entire community. Many of us believe, however, that we must take a break in the beginning of 1991—following such a terrible crisis as the invasion and subsequent events—in order to adopt certain measures and make some changes. Opinion polls have shown a decline in the concept that Panamanians have about Panama's democracy. There have been reports on corruption and great dissatisfaction regarding the administration of justice, despite the excuses given to the people...

[Arias, interrupting] Mayin, I believe that this is not the time to make a long list of criticisms, demands, or frustrations. That is part of any great process of transition from a dictatorship to a democracy. It is time now to decide if we want to return to a regime of military control or if we want to live in a democracy.

[Correa] Obviously, doctor I believe that ...

[Arias] Therefore, I believe that those of us who want to live in democracy must now openly, frankly, and firmly support democracy and constitutional order and that this experience should make us assume a stronger and more constructive commitment to our country's future. Naturally, there is always place for rectifications, but far more important than the human limitations of any ruler is the people's will he represents if he was truly elected, as President Endara was and as those who accompany him were.

[Correa] Dr. Arias, I believe that democracy is receiving full support. It is already obvious. The Panamanian people paid dearly for this democracy. I believe that we will defend it. We will defend a true democracy with

rectifications, with humbleness, a democracy that will be in proportion with the Panamanian people's struggle. We fully agree with you.

It has been said that negotiations are under way with representatives of the rebels at this time. Can you tell us something about it?

[Arias] There are no negotiations under way. They have expressed an interest in sending a message to the government and the government has been willing to listen to that message. That is all. It must be perfectly clear, however, that there can be no negotiation with those who promoted an attempt to violate the constitutional and democratic order. There can be no negotiations about the principle of the supremacy of civilian authority. It must be recalled that these persons who have tried to violate the Constitution are holding hostages. They held some hostages last night and are still holding them this morning. Their attitude is as condemnable as the rest of this adventure they are involved in. Taking hostages is one of the most reproachable acts in a civilized world.

[Correa] Are there any civilian hostages? Are there any civilian government officials who are being held hostage?

[Arias] Even Deputy Minister Lima and Governor Plutarco Arrocha were taken hostage yesterday. They were released after several hours. Members of the National Police Directorate who have remained loyal to the constitutional government, however, are still being held.

[Correa] It was said this morning that there is a U.S. colonel who is being held by the rebels.

[Arias] I cannot confirm that.

[Correa] I do not know if you want to use these microphones to urge Panamanians to defend democracy.

[Arias] I think this is the moment for all to speak up clearly in favor of democracy and against the reappearance of any form of military government. I believe this is the moment to do something practical: each one of us—persons, families, groups, and associations—can let the loyal policemen, who fully respect the constitutional order, know what Panamanians want. We want democracy. We do not want the reemergence of militarism. We can tell them that we are willing to express this feeling with the respect they have earned by remaining loyal to the constitutional and democratic principles in this crisis.

If we approach any policeman, let us greet them and express our feelings. If we visit police stations, let us do likewise. We will thus be giving practical and specific support to democracy and at the same time to those who have courageously opted for democracy and constitutional order.

[Correa] We will remain alert to the incidents that are occurring in the country. We are here at your orders for any official statement you may want to release to the Panamanian community.

[Arias] Thank you.

Endara Addresses Nation on Herrera

PA0512145890 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1325 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Message delivered by President Guillermo Endara to the people in Panama City; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear Panamanian people: As constitutional president of the Republic, I am addressing all the Panamanian people who support the democratic system that we succeeded in establishing through so much effort to report on the events of the past few hours.

After Colonel Eduardo Herrera escaped, a group of military men who wanted to take over tried to perpetrate a coup to again establish a government system alien to representative democracy. These desperate attempts by military men, led by Herrera and supported by a small number of active Public Force members and certain union leaders who planned a labor strike for today, put us in the position of defending, at all costs and with the energy and the leadership that circumstances demand, the democracy that we today enjoy and for which we struggled and suffered so much.

At this moment, the military men led by Herrera are completely surrounded by Public Force members, who have cut off all communications with the building where Herrera and his men are located. Herrera and the others are completely alone. The various garrisons of the country have expressed their loyalty to the government, the Constitution, and democracy.

I am hereby appealing to all political, civic, business, and labor forces, as well as the Panamanian people in general, to remain alert and to defend democracy because the preservation of this system is at stake. Also at stake is not returning to the militarism that threatens to again rule the country in opposition to the wish of the great majority of the Panamanian people. I am hereby calling the private sector workers and public sector officials to go to work today. Otherwise, they would be supporting the coupist purposes of the rebels.

I am pleased to say that, while I am making these assertions, I am accompanied by the top leaders of the Civilist Democratic Opposition Alliance. With me are Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party; Alfredo Ramirez, president of the National Liberal Republican Movement; Arnulfo Escalona Rios, president of the Authentic Liberal Party; Jorge Pacifico Adames, president of the Arnulfista Party;

and the distinguished representatives of the Civic Crusade—coordinator Fernando Boyd, and Executive Committee member Jose Raul Mulino. I have also received the mass support of all of my ministers, the state institutions, and civic and union organizations that represent national life.

Panamanians: You can rest assured that, with your support, I will defend liberty and the democratic system, the only one under which we Panamanians agree to live. Thank you.

Ford Urges Supporting Police

PA0512153690 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1353 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, in Miami—live]

[Text] [Ford] I have a very clear message to the Panamanian people: While on an official visit to the United States by order of President Guillermo Endara, I have kept abreast of the deplorable incidents that occurred yesterday and throughout the night.

I phoned the president to give him my unrestricted support, because we are going to consolidate democracy no matter what.

This kind of rebellion and uprising is unforgivable. I issue a call to all citizens who are aware that democracy is the only system that can prevail in Panama. I send a warm greeting to all Panamanian brothers and sisters. I will be returning today to accompany the president, the vice president, and the government team so that this type of military attempt will never occur again. We cannot have a military coup in Panama ever again. A military coup cannot replace democracy—a democracy we fought so hard for—in Panama ever again.

[Reporter] We received a communique from U.S. President George Bush expressing support for the Panamanian Government and President Endara. What is the climate there with regard to the incidents that have occurred in Panama?

[Ford] I have been able to observe here, not only on the part of the United States, but on the part of the Latin American representatives who are participating in the Caribbean Basin meeting, that they reject this action. Just as they supported President Menem in the coup attempt a few days ago, they now support our president. What Panamanians must understand is that we love peace, order, decency, pride, and dignity.

I have been warning that events could escalate. Unfortunately, this has been the case. I deplore this very much because we must respect the police members who remain loyal to democracy and to its principles with honesty and who support the most cherished goal of Panamanians: to live in peace.

I appeal to these honest policemen with due respect and ask them not to follow—like other groups have done—false prophets who want to disrupt public order. We have the constitutional duty to avoid such action and to support, respect, and protect the lives and property of Panamanians.

Herrera Reportedly Evades Roadblocks

PA0512154290 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1521 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Former Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan apparently has been able to evade the security roadblocks placed around the Curundu area by the National Police and U.S. Army. It was reported that he was able to escape again, but we do not know with how many people. But it has been reported that a group of about 100 men are accompanying him. It is a dangerous situation. Some shots were heard, our reporters there report.

Endara, Cabinet View Coup Attempt

PA0512164190 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1559 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] This is Rene Hernandez, the president's press secretary. Colonel Eduardo Herrera was arrested a few minutes ago. He is under the control of the proper authorities. At this moment President Endara is meeting with his Cabinet to assess the events that have transpired since yesterday afternoon.

In addition, the president ordered that all those policemen who in one way or another participated in the incident avoid any violence, as they will be treated in accordance with police regulations. It is asked that the action to retake the National Police Headquarters be done with due respect and abiding by National Police regulations. Everything seems to indicate that order is being restored.

Policeman Wounded; 30 to 40 Arrested

PA0512171090 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1613 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] As former Colonel Eduardo Herrera was approaching the area near the Curundu low-income housing, specifically near the slums, U.S. Southern Command troops—who had apparently received instructions to try to control the situation—arrested and separated Eduardo Herrera from his followers.

As Herrera walked by the Curundu corregimiento, fewer and fewer men who supposedly backed him were with him. At the time when he was arrested, there were no more than 10 men around him.

The U.S. troops immediately seized the weapons from the rebel policemen. During the incident, a National Police member was wounded. We do not know how he was wounded. We do not know his identity but we know that he is a national policeman. This is the first person

wounded. There were no clashes; apparently this was an isolated shot during the situation.

Herrera was immediately taken to the Technical Judicial Police headquarters, where he is being held right now. U.S. soldiers and Panamanian policemen have cordoned off the area. It is peaceful there now. Those who supported Herrera are no longer there, and their whereabouts are unknown.

[Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 1549 GMT on 5 December reports that approximately 30 to 40 members of the rebel group were arrested by U.S. troops in the Curundu area]

Endara Urges Dialogue To End Labor Dispute

PA0412193290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1733 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Interview with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Endara] Vice President Guillermo Ford, along with some of the ministers who were designated members of the commission who spoke with labor leaders, and myself have clearly said that we are always open to dialogue. Unfortunately, we have not seen in the labor leaders any interest at all for a solution which might warrant a dialogue. The only thing I have heard about Batista [not further identified] is that he received a call from Monsignor Brown proposing the church's mediation and asking for the president's opinion. Of course, I immediately answered in the affirmative.

[Reporter] As president, are you willing to talk with the workers?

[Endara] I have said it many times. So have Ford and the ministers. We are willing to talk with them.

[Reporter] Have the labor leaders been contacted?

[Endara] No, they have not been contacted, but we have made specific assertions. Nevertheless, we have not seen a similar willingness to talk on the part of the workers.

[Reporter] What would be the government's terms for such a dialogue?

[Endara] We have not set any conditions for the dialogue. By its very nature, a dialogue is a broad conversation. Minister Ford has pointed out, however, that for the dialogue to prosper, it is essential that the other party be purged. It is very difficult for us to negotiate with Noriega's followers.

[Reporter] Do you people have a specific proposal for the workers which could prevent the strike?

[Endara] No, we do not. [end recording]

Transportation Leaders Voice Support for Strike

PA0412204390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1748 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Leaders of the Union of Public Transportation Drivers announced their support of the 5 December strike at a news conference this morning. The collective transportation leaders announced their decision to support the national strike scheduled for tomorrow by the Coordinating Board of State and Private Workers Unions as a measure to pressure the government into paying the 13th month bonus and to demand respect for and recognition of some labor rights. Antonio Ramos, leader of the Panamanian Central Organization of Collective Transportation said:

[Begin Ramos recording] Our central union held a meeting yesterday with the participation of leaders at the national level. We thoroughly and carefully analyzed our participation in the strike for the right to life called by the coordinating board. Our grass roots at the national level have unanimously decided to firmly and effectively support the national march and the national transportation strike. This will include collective and selective transportation, as well as cargo, student, and tourist transportation. [end recording]

Transportation Ignores Strike Call

PA0512025690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2317 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The grass-roots sector of the collective transportation workers has not heeded the strike call. The success of tomorrow's strike depends on the collective and selective transportation service because the effects of the strike would really be felt in this sector. The radical measure simply has not won support in other representative sectors, except for some state organizations.

The Union of Public Transportation Drivers' leaders said that they will support the strike. What the leadership of the transportation workers are saying and the attitude of the grass roots regarding the leadership's decisions are diametrically opposed. The call to strike is categorically rejected.

[Begin recording] [Unidenitfied reporter] There will be a strike tomorrow. As a selective transportation worker, what is your opinion? Will you or will you not join it?

[Unidentified Taxi Driver] I will not support it.

[Reporter] Why not?

[Taxi Driver] Because I am not going to support Noriega followers.

[Second unidentified driver] I am not going to strike.

[Third unidentified driver] As far as I am concerned, I will not join the strike. I am of the opinion that one must work and not complain.

[Reporter] I am from channel 4. Tomorrow there will be a strike, what is your opinion, will you join the strike?

[Fourth unidentified driver] I am not going to join it, I am going to work. The problem is that we cannot go out because it is being said that our buses will be damaged and I do not know how we are going to manage.

[Reporter] Have you been threatened?

[Fifth unidentified driver] No, no, I am not going to support it.

[Reporter] Why not?

[Fifth Driver] I do not see why we should. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the National Federation of Taxi Drivers, in a letter addressed to President Guillermo Endara Galimany, has noted that it will not support the strike called by the labor coordinating board. In the note the taxi drivers state that all paths of dialogue must be exhausted until an agreement is reached between the government and workers. Therefore, the situation is really tense, because there is a possibility that the bus transportation leaders may resort to forceful measures to guarantee the strike's success.

Regarding this, the Government and Justice Ministry has issued a communique noting that in view of the transportation workers' decision to join the strike called by the public transportation worker unions, the National Police advises citizens in general that it has taken the necessary measures to guarantee the safety of drivers and passengers. In that sense, the note adds, the police units will be posted along the vehicle routes, guaranteeing the necessary protection to those persons who go to work. The Government and Justice Ministry communique specified that the National Police, as guarantor of public security, will remain watchful and ready to safeguard the lives, property, and honor of citizens.

Public Workers Stage Orderly 'March for Life'

PA0512011290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2344 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Several thousand public employees, citizens, and unemployed persons, among others, marched this afternoon from El Carmen Church to the 5 May Plaza, shouting slogans and carrying posters. The demonstrators participated in a march which they called the March for Life. During the march they demanded that certain demands be fulfilled. One of the salient demands was payment of the 13th month bonus pay to public employees, regulation of the administrative career, and job stability.

At the moment that this news report was being aired, the march was being held in an orderly manner and was guarded by members of the Public Force.

Meanwhile, businessmen of the places where the march was passing by decided to reinforce their vigilance with heavily armed units to prevent any regrettable incident.

The demonstrators went to the 5 May Plaza where labor leaders addressed those present to raise their demands, which were presented to President Guillermo Endara several days ago.

Traffic of Buses, Persons Observed Despite Strike

PA0512123890 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1119 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] We can report that we have just received a call here at KW Continente saying that hooded civilians have blocked the Transisthmian Highway in front of the National University of Panama. They are diverting traffic and they are operating from inside the Panama University. They are currently blocking the Transisthmian Highway. This is the latest report that we have on what is happening on the Transisthmian Highway in front of the university. Eduardo Diaz, you just got here from the street, what do you have for us.

[Begin Diaz recording] Well, we did not reach the university, but we toured Via Espana, the Transisthmian Highway, Vista Hermosa and have observed a normal flow of vehicles. Bus service, however, is circulating. There are many persons out on the street. As usual, the bus stops are starting to get crowded. We asked persons who were walking by, and they told us that they were able to use the transportation facilities. We toured the 11 October avenue, went down through Parque Lefevre, and reached Via Espana, where we have seen many buses there. It is not normal; it is not the regular situation. Apparently there are some who are supporting the strike. We do not know why they are not transiting at this time, but there is a regular flow of vehicles so that people can go to work today. [end recording]

Poll Measures Government Performance

PA0412173490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 1A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio]

[Text] The poll conducted by the Dichter and Neira Company between 8 and 13 November reveals an evident reduction in the people's perception of the effectiveness of the highest-ranking public officials.

An increase in the popularity of Vice President Guillermo Ford, however, with a 56.4-percent approval rating, should be noted. Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, on the other hand, was viewed as the most inefficient high-ranking public official with only a 9.7-percent approval rating.

If one compares these two officials based on the results of the poll conducted about six months ago, the approval rating for Ford went up 4.6 percent, whereas that of Cruz dropped 5.3 percent. This difference occurs despite the

fact that both government officials handle equally difficult situations, such as economic policy and the administration of justice.

This important difference, however, could be due to the fact that most citizens complain about the slow judicial process, although the attorney general has said that this situation is largely due to the huge backlog that the Attorney General's Office has to handle.

Regarding the image of the president, the poll revealed a seven-point fall during the last three months. President Guillermo Endara received a 25.2-percent job approval rating.

The performance of Second Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon [as published] was perceived as good or excellent by 19.5 percent of those surveyed, whereas in August 28.6 percent had expressed their approval of Arias Calderon's performance, which indicates that his popularity fell nine points since the first poll.

This loss of popularity may be related to the lack of trust expressed by those surveyed regarding the National Police, as Arias Calderon is responsible for the creation of that agency.

In keeping with the deterioration of the government's image, there was a noteworthy loss in the people's perception regarding the performance of all ministers. In spite of this, 41.6 percent of those polled termed the job performed by Ada de Gordon, Christian Democrat Education minister, as good or excellent.

Other officials who maintained good popularity indexes were Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena with 55.2 percent, and Comptroller General Ruben D. Carles with 42.3 percent, who are both members of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena].

When asked which was the political party of their preference, 39.2 percent of those surveyed said none; 24.2 percent Molirena; 13 percent the Christian Democratic Party; 9.9 percent the Arnulfist Party; and 3.4 percent the Authentic Liberal Party.

This high percentage of people who did not express support for any political party should not surprise anyone, because during the 7 May 1989 elections most Panamanians voted for a change of government rather than for their loyalty to any political party.

Other nongovernmental parties which received support from those polled were the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] with 2.6 percent; Peoples Action Party, 2.4 percent; and the Labor Party [Pala], 2.4 percent.

When asked what party, movement, or political figure best represented the opposition to the current government, one out of two Panamanians (52.9 percent) said none.

The above information may lead one to believe that if it is true that the government has lost support, the people perceive no alternatives for the future of the country. To this effect, only 13.9 percent said the PRD is a viable opposition force, whereas 10.8 percent said that the Pala is.

There were opposing views regarding the creation of new political parties, because 42.1 percent supported that possibility, whereas 49.6 percent are opposed to the creation of new political parties.

Changes in the Constitution Are Desired

The poll also disclosed that Panamanians want changes to be made to the current Constitution. As a result, 72.8 percent of those surveyed responded that these changes should take place via constitutional reforms, whereas 55.3 percent thought that a new constitution should be prepared through a national constituent assembly.

These results may reflect the fact that the current Constitution was written by the past administration, which has been denounced by many Panamanians. They have said that the nation "continues to be governed under the laws that were issued by the dictatorship."

If presidential elections were to be held sometime between 8 to 13 November (when the poll was conducted), 35.1 percent of the people would have voted for Guillermo Ford; 11.1 for Guillermo Endara; 5.5 for Carlos Ivan Zuniga; 5.2 for Ricardo Arias Calderon; and 1.3 for Ruben Blades.

LA PRENSA informs the public that on 8 December it will publish a supplement with additional details of the poll.

Argentina

Police Deactivate Bomb at Lloyd's Bank Door

PY0412164090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Personnel of the Buenos Aires bomb squad this morning deactivated a bomb in La Plata that had been planted at the door of the Lloyd's bank building on 47th Street between 7th and 8th Streets [as heard].

Bombings Said 'Welcome' for Bush

PY0412202490 Madrid EFE in English 1902 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, Dec 4 (EFE)—A previously unknown leftist group claimed planting two bombs Tuesday [4 December] at branches of American and British banks on the eve of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Argentina. The bomb at the U.S. bank exploded, causing damage but no injuries. Police deactivated the second bomb.

An unidentified spokesman for the group, which calls itself the Eva Peron Command, phoned local news outlets Tuesday saying it was readying a "welcome operation for Bush." In issuing its warnings about Bush's Wednesday visit, the group called him the "chief executive of oppression and misery in the Third World." It also accused the United States of helping Britain win the Falkland Islands War in 1982, when British troops defeated occupying Argentine forces.

The first bomb exploded at a branch of the Bank of Boston, destroyed the office but causing no injuries. The group also claimed the second bomb that was deactivated by police at a branch of the British Lloyds Bank in the city of La Plata, 60 km south of Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires was returning to normal Tuesday, a day after the government crushed a coup attempt by Army mutineers who took over military installations throughout the city. The government said Tuesday 19 had been killed, 200 injured and 212 had been arrested.

The Eva Peron Command is named after the popular second wife of ex-president Juan Domingo Peron, founder in 1946 of the Peronist Party, of which Argentine President Carlos Menem is a member.

She died of cancer in 1952.

Bombs Damage Chase Manhattan Banks

PY0512110890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM)—Two bombs went off this morning in branches of the Chase Manhattan Bank in the Buenos Aires neighborhoods of Belgrano and Flores. In both cases the explosions caused damage but claimed no victims.

The first bomb exploded at the Chase Manhattan Bank branch at 1467 Echeverria Street in the Belgrano neighborhood. This district is in the jurisdiction of the 51st Police Precinct. Personnel from the Federal Police Central Fire Department have informed TELAM that the bomb exploded minutes before 0600 GMT.

Personnel from the 51st Police Precinct, two fire department squads from the Central Fire Department, and a police bomb squad went to the scene.

The other bomb exploded at the Chase Manhattan Bank branch at 2508 Gaona Street. The explosion, which occurred at about 0630 GMT, broke windows and damaged furniture in the building. Personnel from the 50th Police Precinct are guarding the front of the building.

Judge Alejandro Becerra, through the secretary of Lawyer Ponce, is handling this case.

Foreign Minister Cavallo Praises Bush Visit

PY0512125890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1153 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM)— Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has said: "President Bush's visit demonstrates the importance that the United States is giving to Latin America and to Argentina in particular."

He also stressed "the little importance the U.S. President has given to the recent military incidents, clearly expressing his support for Argentine democracy and for President Menem."

During Bush's visit Cavallo said: "We have enough time to discuss several issues of interest for our region, for our country, and also for the United States."

In an interview with Radio Mitre, Cavallo said that although no cooperation agreement will be signed "we will discuss the ones that are already under implementation—for example, one that involves the development of Argentine education and the implementation of the Initiative for the Americas."

Cavallo said that in the next few weeks the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay will meet with the U.S. secretary of state to define an "agenda to immediately act" on the Bush initiative.

Government Was Aware of Possible Uprising

PY0412143890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1354 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—National Senator Eduardo Menem has stressed that the government had been informed of the possibility of the events that happened yesterday, although he said that the events were not expected to have been "of this magnitude."

"It is true that some developments were expected and there were rumors of a movement," Menem said after a meeting at the Olivos Residence with President Carlos

Menem. This meeting was also attended by SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] head Hugo Anzorregui and Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo.

Eduardo Menem explained that the government was aware that those who rebelled yesterday had lists of "selected targets." He admitted that he was one of the selected targets, which is why instructions were given to provide special protection to him.

Execution for Rebels Said Favored

PY0412152890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Relay from Santa Rosa, La Pampa, by (Daniel Luchielli)]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] La Pampa Governor Nestor Rufino Ahuad has said that he agrees with the commander of the 4th Corps that the rebels responsible for yesterday's incidents should be executed. Ahuad also held Raul Alfonsin's radical government responsible for not solving the military problem.

The governor said that this is a chance to hold the rebels responsible for rebelling and that the Argentine Army should reoccupy its corresponding place in the Argentine society. [passage omitted]

I also want to point out that yesterday I was in contact with Brigade General Eduardo Fiorda, the commander of the 4th Corps, which headquartered in our capital. He who stressed that all these people should be eliminated from the Army and put in jail, which is where they deserve to be. Failing that, he said that they deserve to be executed if the law so orders. This was the commander's emphatic answer when he was asked for a definite solution to these periodic uprisings that have been staged since 1987 by the Painted Faces within the Army. [passage omitted]

Three Rebel Tank Crews Surrender at Olavarria

PY0412170790 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The seditious crews of three of the tanks, which were removed yesterday from the Olavarria Armored Regiment headquarters, surrendered without a fight at around 0800 this morning to loyal troops.

This information was confirmed by Mrs. (Kilmurrie), the owner of La Yerba Ranch in Norberto de la Riestra, 25 de Mayo, Buenos Aires Province, where the rebels had sought refuge. The rebels surrendered at this ranch.

The ranch owner said that the Painted Faces, some 20 uniformed men who came to the ranch after one of their tanks broke down, spent the night at the ranch.

The ranch owner said that a tractor driver met the loyal troops as they approached the ranch. Their leader told him that he wanted to talk with the ranch owner. The ranch owner later talked with the military men of both sides and asked them to remain calm.

The source said that the rebels, who were resting, put on their clothes, gathered their arms, and waited for the loyalist troops.

Menem Meets With Military, Defense Officials

PY0412114590 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Late last night President Carlos Menem held a meeting in his office at Government House with the Army, Air Force, and Navy chiefs of staff who were accompanied by the chief of the Armed Forces joint staff and the defense minister.

After the meeting the president went from Government House to the wake of two of the unfortunate Army officers who were killed during the clashes that took place today.

Colonel Seineldin Reportedly Sought Suicide

PY0412172490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1328 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Raul Granillo Ocampo, presidential secretary for legal and technical affairs, today disclosed that a version "received through military channels" states that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, "allegedly asked for a weapon with which to commit suicide, and that he even wrote a note in which he assumes his share of responsibility" for yesterday's incidents. Granillo added: "If this is correct, then he is the leader."

Granillo made this comment at Government House when asked whether Seineldin could be regarded as the leader of the military rebellion. He explained: "Until this version is endorsed by concrete evidence we will continue to handle it as a possibility."

Granillo had previously stated that if the military rebellion, rather than calling it a military uprising, is considered a "mutiny or act of sedition it would be exclusively handled by the military court." In this case urgent and summary proceedings could be adopted and the sentences "could even include the death sentence because blood was shed. In this way the masterminds would be sentenced to death."

Said To Claim Responsibility

PY0412180490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1735 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero today confirmed the existence of a letter by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, in which he claims responsibility for the military uprising that took place yesterday.

Romero said that because of this letter the government will study what actions should be implemented against the leader of the "Painted Faces."

Regarding the remaining military men involved in the uprising, the minister said that they will "at least" be dismissed from the Army.

European Community Voices Support of Menen

PY0412181690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1634 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, 4 Dec (TELAM-EFE)—The European Community (EC) and its member states today sent a message of solidarity to Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, voicing their satisfaction "because the state's legitimate authority has emerged stronger."

At the meeting of the council of ministers for general affairs, the "Group of Twelve" praised the Argentine president for the way in which he solved the violent situation created yesterday by some military rebels.

The communique then states: "On this occasion the EC and its member states voice their solidarity and support to the consolidation of the democratic system and its institutions in Argentina and the entire Latin American continent."

Presidential Spokesman Interviewed on Situation

PY0412183690 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2023 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo by reporter Antonio Julian at Government House and announcer Raul Barcelo from the television studio—live]

[Text] [Julian] Good afternoon, Humberto. What is the current situation in the different sectors where conflicts have taken place?

[Toledo] Well, the situation in the two [as heard] sectors closest to Government House, the Prefecture Building on Cangallo Street and Leng Avenue, is under control. Prefecture officials are there and are resuming their command activities. Judge (Pons) has already taken action there. (Pons) arrived at Government House to request equipment; he wanted a truck to carry the rebels' weapons. Some Army helicopters are carrying about 40 or 45 men who had seized the Prefecture Building. This episode has ended, thanks to God.

There is another episode still going on involving six or eight tanks moving on Panamericana Avenue. Of course, the president of the nation has given precise and resolute orders to end this problem as soon as possible. I understand that some Air Force aircraft and helicopters could engage these tanks, so people are urged to stay away from that area. It is possible that this confrontation will be short and fast. The order is final: Stop the tanks immediately and detain the people who are commanding them.

[Julian] To explain further, are these the same units that have been moving from Entre Rios Province since early this morning?

[Toledo] No. This is a column from Boulogne, from the Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise, TAMSE.

[Julian] What is the current situation at the Patricios Regiment?

[Toledo] The situation at Patricios is absolutely under control. Colonel De la Cruz, who is commander of the regiment, is again in charge there. There are some military officers under arrest. They are the ones who seized the regiment, violated the law, and caused the death of two officers and a noncommissioned officer. The national government, through the president, has regretted this fact. President Menem has expressed his full recognition and gratitude to all members of the Armed Forces and security forces who reacted immediately to control these incidents.

Those under arrest are: Major Hugo Reinaldo Abete, Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Tevere, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Perez Cometto, Major Jorge Pedro Mones Ruiz, and Colonel Enrique Baraldini.

[Julian] Where are they being held?

[Toledo] They are being held right there at the Patricios Regiment, but they will probably be transferred to another military unit.

[Julian] Well, let us now address what is happening near Government House at the Libertador Building. By the shots we can hear, the action has begun.

[Toledo] There are also orders to recover the Libertador Building as soon as possible. Action is currently taking place there, and we understand this will end very soon.

[Julian] Mr. Toledo, how is the president? This is very important.

[Toledo] The president has just received a call from Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who contributed to strengthening his spirit. Before that, he received calls from Brazilian President Collor de Mello, Uruguayan President Lacalle, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and many political leaders, businessmen, industrialists, congressmen, opposition leaders, etc. I remember that among the first to call early this morning were former President Raul Alfonsin and Radical Civic Union bloc leader Cesar Jaroslavsky, whom the president invited, together with Deputy Ulloa [not further identified], to breakfast here at Government House. We continuously feel the presence of the people, of all society, through this group of leaders.

[Julian] I do not know whether there is anything to add, but I believe everything will be under control soon. Is that true?

[Toledo] Yes, it is. I would say that the last focus of conflict will end soon. It is also important for the people to know that the president recognizes the loyalty of the Armed Forces and security forces, and their own generosity in offering their own lives to prevent legal constitutional order from being disrupted.

[Barcelo] What information do you have, Mr. Toledo, about the troops that were coming from Entre Rios? What do you know about Seineldin, who reportedly remains in the south? Do you know anything about him, and whether the Supreme Court members are meeting with President Menem at this moment?

[Toledo] Well, the troops have been detained. They are not moving any further. The information we have now is that the situation regarding the detention of those troops is the same.

As for Seineldin, he is still being held at San Martin de los Andes. There is no information to the contrary.

Regarding the Supreme Court, most of its members have come to Government House to greet the president of the nation. They are here now with the president.

[Julian] Thank you very much, Mr. Toledo.

Foreign Minister on Painted Faces' Final Action

PY0412211690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Speaking about the military revolt, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has said that this will be the Painted Faces' final action because never before has there been such a categorical reaction from the mechanisms that defend democracy.

The minister made this statement at Ezeiza Airport at noon today shortly after returning to the country on an Argentine Airlines flight from the final meeting on the Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

Asked about Argentina's image abroad after the incidents, Cavallo said that these events always have negative effects. The important thing, however, is that at this time the mechanisms that democracy has to defend itself were immediately enforced, he said.

Legislators, Politicians Cancel Anti-Bush Rally

PY0412213490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2013 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Political leaders and legislators of various affiliations this afternoon announced the suspension of a rally that was to be staged tomorrow to protest U.S. President George Bush's visit. A communique signed by Deputies Simon Lazara and Rafael Pascual and by Justicialist political leader Jacinto Gaibur states that the rally was suspended because of "events that are known to the public" and out of a sense of "responsibility."

Leftist Groups Confirm March

PY0512004690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2251 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Leftist political organizations today reaffirmed that, despite the state of siege in force, they will stage a "march to repudiate" the visit of U.S. President George Bush.

The following organizations have agreed to participate in the march: the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), the Communist Party of Argentina (PCA), the Liberation Broad Front (FRAL), the People's Democratic Left (Idepo), the Workers Party (PO), the PTS [not further identified], the Party for Revolution and Social Independence in Argentina (PRISA), the Free Fatherland Movement, the Popular Intransigent Party, the Independent Socialist Left, and the National Coordinating Board of Malvinas Veterans.

The march, which is scheduled to start at 1830, will go from Corrientes and Callao to Plaza de Mayo, where the marchers will join the weekly rally of the Plaza de Mayo Mothers.

State of Siege Lifted at Midnight on 5 Dec

PY0512003590 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0003 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—Upon leaving Government House, Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa tonight announced that President Carlos Menem has decided to lift the state of siege as of 0000 [0200 GMT] on 5 December.

Mera Figueroa made the announcement after attending a cabinet meeting presided over by President Menem at the Olivos residence. Mera said Decree 2546 "orders the lifting of the state of siege because the state of internal commotion that prompted it is over."

Army General Staff Releases Names of Casualties

PY0512003490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2310 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—The Army General Staff reported tonight that it has confirmed "so far" that six Army soldiers were killed and 19 injured during yesterday's rebellion, which ended with the defeat of the mutinous "Painted Faces" group.

According to a list released by Lieutenant Colonel Alfredo Jose Noberasco, chief of the Army Press Department, the dead men were: Colonel Alberto Romero Mundani, Lieutenant Colonel Hernan Carlos Pita, Sergeant Guillermo Daniel Verbese, Corporal Rolando

Daniel Morales, Conscript Class-71 Alejandro Greco (who was in an accident), and Major Federico Pedernera.

The list of injured people follows: First Lieutenants Alberto Cesar Maciel, Rodolfo Barrio, Mario Hector Juarez, and Gustavo Sergio Carrede, and Lieutenant Alejandro Raul Perichon.

The injured NCO's are: Juan Jose Aristimudos, Daniel Eduardo Fracchia, Jorge Joaquin Matias, Orlando Viterman Hoyos, Julio Enrique Tabordas, Alfredo Constanzo, Jose Maria Flores, Gerardo Alcides Sanchez, Nesar Machado, Damian Claudio Neto, and Conscripts Class-71 Ariel Gonzalez, Mario Gomez, Jose Martinez, and Valentin Vargas.

Rebel Plan To Attack Officials Revealed

PY0512011090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2332 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—The "Painted Faces" who took over several military units for a few hours planned to attack the president, a minister, and several well-known legislators. Senator Eduardo Menem made this statement today in revealing a top-secret government intelligence report.

Menem made this important revelation to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS after details of a plan to attack "selected targets" was made known. The attack was to take place within the framework of the rebellion, which loyal forces repressed with bloodshed and bullets.

Senator Menem said that the list of "targets" included President Carlos Menem; Health and Social Action Minister Alberto Kohan; Jose Luis Manzano, head of the Justicialist bloc of the Chamber of Deputies; and Miguel Angel Toma, president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee.

The terrorist plan also included attacks against leaders of the Radical Civic Union, including—according to the Painted Faces' list—former Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, National Deputy Federico Storani, and Buenos Aires leader Leopoldo Moreau.

Senator Menem, who confirmed that the government had received an intelligence report about the possibility of the rebel attack, said the rebels also planned to attack him because he is the president's brother, head of the Justicialist Party, and provisional Senate president.

In an exclusive conversation with NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Menem jokingly said: "By killing me they could kill three birds with one stone." [passage omitted]

Potential Problem Between Courts Noted

PY0512013090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Federal Judge Miguel Pons today sent a note to the head of the Armed Forces Supreme Council requesting that "every report on operations"—including the names and ranks of civilian and military personnel arrested yesterday following the crushing of the military uprising—be sent to him.

Judge Pons' request could provoke a conflict of jurisdiction because the highest military court could claim jurisdiction to hear the case for itself. If such a conflict arises, the Supreme Court will have to decide which court, military or federal, should hear the case. [passage omitted]

Justifying his request, Pons told the Armed Forces Supreme Council that he was investigating "all the events that took place yesterday in the city of Buenos Aires, events that are known to the public."

Judge Pons began to investigate the case in response to charges filed by Army Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Acosta about some vehicles stolen from the unit under his command.

Menem Urged To Be 'Benevolent' With Rebels

PY0512032090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0102 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, leader of the Holy Week and Monte Caseros military uprisings, today admitted the possibility that the leaders of the Painted Faces rebellion may be sentenced to death. Rico urged President Carlos Menem to be "as benevolent as possible" with them.

Asked whether the military courts might sentence the rebels to death, Rico said: "It is very probable." He expressed his hope, however, that "the president will be as benevolent as possible."

He asserted that he does not feel like "an accomplice in anything" and said that the "imprisonment or execution" of the rebels will not remedy the problem because the difficult thing is "finding solutions to the problem."

In an interview with the television program "Tiempos Nuevos," Rico criticized Senator Eduardo Menem's comments to the effect that he had known about the rebels' plans. He said that instead of "planning how to recover the garrisons, the senator should have done his best to prevent the rebellion from taking place."

"Everyone knew what was going to happen, but no one did anything to prevent it," he said. He then asked: "Why were measures not taken to prevent the occupation of the garrisons instead of simply planning how to recover them?"

He also said that he had not "received any invitation" to take part in the rebellion. He explained that the rebellion "was in no way related to the Monte Caseros uprising, and probably not to the Villa Martelli rebellion either."

He said that "not all" the military personnel who took part in the uprising were Painted Faces and denied the

rumors that pardoned military men had taken part in the rebellion. "Those of us who have been pardoned have left the Army."

He pointed out that yesterday's uprising "was the fourth, and the number of people involved is increasing each time." He added that "this time, almost all the rebels were noncommissioned officers." He noted, therefore, that the complaints of the Painted Faces sector "have been transformed into a clash between officers and noncommissioned officers."

Regarding former Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin's position, he said that "he continues to be the best soldier. After the Villa Martelli rebellion, he surrounded himself with civilians who gave him a political project and attitude," which made him split with the cause.

"Everything started as a military claim, without the participation of civilians," he said. He added that Seineldin's project then achieved "political" characteristics that caused "our separation."

To achieve victory in the previous rebellions, we had to "kill comrades." At that time we realized that "neither the replacement of a president nor a chief of staff was worth the life of a comrade in arms."

He also commented on the pardon that President Carlos Menem granted former commanders. He said that although the decision was positive, "the military commanders worsened the conflict, and now there is a class struggle within the Army."

He finally repeated that he does not want "the Army to become a merely administrative body" and admitted that "in Argentina, no one can impose anything by force."

Article Reports Former ERP Leader's Activities

PY0212024890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] According to a press report, Enrique Gorriaran Merlo, former leader of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), was seen two months ago in various places in Greater Buenos Aires, and his return to the country was aimed at reaching an alliance with the Che Guevara Brigade for the release of members of the Everyone for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), who were arrested following an unsuccessful attempt to take over the La Tablada 3rd Regiment.

The report, published in the latest edition of the magazine EL PORTENO, says Gorriaran—who is believed to have masterminded the attack on the La Tablada barracks—wanted to propose an alliance with the Che Guevara Brigade to revive the FRP (People's Resistance Front) [Frente de Resistencia Popular]. FPR is the acronym used by the guerrillas in communiques issued in Montevideo after the attack on the La Tablada barracks.

The report says Gorriaran was turned down by the Cuban Government following the 23 January 1989 attack on La Tablada, and he is currently supported by "the most impatient sectors of the Sandinist intelligence services." The report notes that these Sandinist sectors "were hurt financially by the change of government and they do not want to have anything to do with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro."

EL PORTENO also says Gorriaran returned to the country "to engage in political action that would allow him to make newspaper headlines again;" that is, "actions such as the release from Caseros of those convicted for their involvement in the La Tablada attack."

The report, which comments on the origin of the Che Guevara Brigade, says that "as an ERP member, Gorriaran was demoted more than once because of his irresponsible military actions and the La Tablada attack was not necessarily instrumental in disproving his poor record."

The article concludes by describing as "delirious" the plan to release the MTP members because "all of the inmates are held on intermediate floors; not even helicopters would be useful in this undertaking."

Romanian Prime Minister Addresses Foreign Council

PY0212021090 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] Addressing the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations (CARI), Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman said: "It is well known that Argentina and Romania need foreign economic support, but it is also well known that your country's wealth combined with our industrial capacity could complement each other well."

In the company of CARI Chairman Carlos Manuel Muniz, Roman analyzed the Romanian Administration's performance since the 22 December revolution that ended Nicolae Ceaucescu's dictatorship and the power of its two pillars—the party apparatus and the "Securitate."

Petre Roman pointed out: "After the drastic political change, a period of confrontation began in the country. There was no relation, whatsoever, between the revolution and the political confrontations that followed. Those who believed that there was a relationship were victims of the speculative visions of the press, which 'loves' these speculations for commercial reasons."

The Romanian prime minister added that in the first post-revolutionary period, "social psychology on the meaning of democracy was very weak. Nonetheless, we have advanced, and an electoral law has been approved. Based on this law, we held elections in May and now have a legislative assembly and a constituent assembly."

According to him, the transition process in Romania "is still going on and is successful." A constitutional committee has already created a foundation of principles, and in 1991 the Parliament will start working on the constitution."

"Currently," he said, "there are many political parties and several forms of extraparliamentary opposition that want undemocratic participation and are often rather unreasonable." Despite that, Roman praised the May elections, "which were deemed 'free' by foreign observers."

Roman added: "At the time of the dictatorship, the benefits of the industrial and agricultural apparatuses were distributed in accordance with the dictator's will and not based on the people's fundamental needs."

From the Stalinist point of view, there is great industrial potential in Romania, "but it yields negative results," Roman emphasized.

In January 1990, land was distributed among the peasants (this agrarian reform was broader than those implemented after World Wars I and II), and about 82 percent of the lots automatically went into private hands, especially cooperatives. "The administrative sector's nonintervention is bearing fruit—economic reactivation," Roman said.

In the industrial area, he pointed out the approval of the "Law on Autonomous Companies." Some of them are still in government hands, but about 6,000 have already become trade corporations.

On 18 October, during a celebration of the new administration's 100th day in office, Roman urged the Romanian Parliament to "accelerate reform."

Romania identifies itself with Argentina in this sense because "government management of economic matters has always yielded poor results," Roman concluded.

Judge Orders Release of Alleged Chilean Terrorist

PY0212183290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2025 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (NA)—Lomas de Zamora Federal Judge Julio Piaggio today ordered the release of presumed Chilean subversive Juan Eduardo Figueroa because the Chilean courts have not issued an arrest warrant for him. Figueroa has been accused of being responsible for the aborted attack on General Augusto Pinochet in September 1986.

In a telephone conversation, the Santiago ad hoc military prosecutor told the Argentine judge that a military court has requested Figueroa's arrest in order to testify—which is equivalent to a summons in Argentina—but the charges have not been specified. [passage omitted]

Government Plans Job Cuts in State Enterprises

PY0412052690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Dec 90 p 7

[Text] Around 50,000 jobs will be cut throughout state enterprises "in the shortest possible time" according to a high-ranking official in the Economy Ministry. The job losses will be incurred on top of the 120,000 public employees in national administration who will lose their jobs in the government's "rationalization" programme.

The official, who is currently working on the rationalization programme, emphasized that those who lost their jobs would "not necessarily be sacked."

"In many cases the lay-offs would occur naturally through the granting of concessions and privatizations transferring personnel to the private sector," said the official who wished to remain unidentified. He said the rationalization in state enterprises would "optimize the firms in order to sell them on better terms."

The spokesman pointed out that the state had shed 40,000 employees automatically through the privatizatin of Entel [National Telecommunicatons Enterprise] telephone company, while the Urquiza railway line and SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] state power company sell-offs would imply further job cuts. He confirmed that severance pay would go to those who lost their jobs in state companies not due to be privatized.

"We are working within a World Bank programme which will grant the country a 300 million-dollar loan," said the Economy Ministry official. He added that although some of the funds would be spent in severance payments, an unspecified amount was earmarked for "development and modernization" of state firms.

Job losses will be incurred throughout state enterprises including ENCoTel [National Enterprise for Mail and Telegraph] post office, Obras Sanitarias [National Sanitary Works] water utility, YPF [Government Oil Deposits] state oil company and the State Gas Company.

Official sources also maintain that if the rationalization programme goes well, the Inter-American Development Bank could lend between another 30 and 40 million dollars.

November Inflation Set at 5.2 Percent

PY0312013490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Inflation in November was around 5.2 percent, according to the Institute for Economic and Social Policy (IPES), significantly lower than October's already impressive 7.7 percent.

IPES said that it was difficult to predict the level of inflation for December. The Institute admitted that the statistical lag would be minor, but pointed out that the

payment of Christmas bonuses and the impact of the end-of-year celebrations could disrupt the recent downward trend.

The extension of the value-added tax to all goods and services would also tend to push prices upwards, IPES added.

In November, the price of clothing climbed 5.9 percent, and food and drink went up 5.4 percent. In the last week of the month, the price index rose by only 0.8 percent.

Brazil

Collor Stresses Foreign Debt at Bush Dinner

PY0412133090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] U.S. President George Bush is concluding his visit to Brasilia, and will depart for Montevideo, Uruguay, today at 0900 [1100 GMT]. During his meeting with President Fernando Collor in the Planalto Palace, Bush promised Collor that he will free the sale of a supercomputer which Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] wants for its aeronautics industry. President Collor said that Brazil has demonstrated its commitment to peace, and it will not give up its right to attain modern technology. President Bush's promise ends the discussion on the U.S. Senate prohibition to sell supercomputers to Brazil.

The U.S. President believes that Brazilian economic growth in this decade will be attained through a market economy which will place Brazil among the group of developed countries. In a speech to a group of Brazilian and U.S. businessmen, the U.S. President suggested that the business class should assume an important role in this development.

FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] President Mario Amato interprets Bush's statements as an encouragement for private enterprise. Amato commented on the changes in the country that will result from the visit by Bush:

[Begin Amato recording] I think that an understanding has become easier. There is more transparency for the media. That is very important for Brazil. [end recording]

For Senator Albano Franco, president of the National Confederation of Industries, the Brazilian foreign debt negotiations will be facilitated by President Bush's visit to Brazil.

[Begin Franco recording] I believe they will, not only because of President Bush's speech in Congress, but because of what he and his advisers said [as heard], and of course because of President Bush's praise for President Collor's statement that Brazil will only negotiate its debt without affecting national growth. [end recording]

The last official ceremony that President Bush attended in Brasilia was a dinner in Itamaraty, offered by President Fernando Collor.

The foreign debt and the relations between Brazil and its international creditors were the most important issues of the speech given by President Fernando Collor during a dinner for 300 people in Itamaraty in honor of U.S. President George Bush. President Collor said that the Brazilian economy is undergoing difficult moments and that the government is implementing a strong program of reforms that seek to recover the Brazilian capability for economic growth.

[Begin Collor recording] We have a social and economic scene of inequality and shortages that we must urgently correct. It is incompatible with social stability and human dignity. This fact requires wisdom and understanding by the creditors. We are not dealing simply with a banking problem but with a problem that affects the 150 million people who live in one of the largest and most important countries of the world. [end recording]

President Collor stressed some other important subjects discussed during President Bush' visit, such as the Initiative for the Americas which envisages the creation of a free market zone, the development and access to science and technology, the environment, and trade protectionism which harms the developing countries' exports of raw materials.

In turn, President Bush's speech did not refer to the foreign debt, although he praised the Brazilian Government's efforts to overcome its problems.

Foreign Minister Views Visit

PY0412233090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] U.S. President George Bush ended his 27-hour visit to Brazil today, boarding a plane for Montevideo, Uruguay, on the second leg on his tour of Latin American countries at 0900. Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek handled the farewell for the U.S. President—as he did the welcome yesterday—at the Brasilia Air Base.

The Brazilian foreign minister said President Bush's visit surpassed all expectations, particularly regarding the transfer of technology to Brazil.

[Begin Rezek recording] A lot has recently been said about a supercomputer for Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise]. This will no longer be an issue, because the equipment is now coming. There are, however, many other high-technology issues in which we are interested because of their importance for our development. The U.S. Government expressed its firm political will to cooperate in these matters. [end recording]

Angra Nuclear Plant Evacuation Plan Criticized

PY0412122190 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Nov 90 p 38

[Report by Elenilce Bottari]

[Excerpt] If the Eastern Military Command (CML) plan for the evacuation of Angra dos Reis in case of a nuclear accident were to be examined by the Military Engineering Institute (IME), the CML would not earn an "A." In an article published in the military science and technology magazine, two IME professors published a computer-assisted study on the capacity to evacuate people via each Angra dos Reis access route in 1989. The study noted the need for several infrastructure works in the region, as well as the need to conduct simulation drills. With only 30 days to go this year, the CML has not even conducted one of the drills it intended to perform this year. Neither has the ministry informed the population how the evacuation will be conducted in case of a nuclear accident.

According to data from the study by Lieutenant Colonel Jose Carlos de Faria Vieira and Major Luiz Antonio Silveira Lopes, engineers of the IME Engineering Transport Program, it would take seven hours to conduct an orderly evacuation of 56,000 people from the 15-km area surrounding the nuclear plant. The conclusion does not, however, consider factors such as problems on the road and panic of the evacuees.

"The problem is complex, it affects human lives, and it should be treated as such," the professors point out in their article. Both the data from the IME and the CML refer to 1989 and do not anticipate conditions of the BR-101 road. This principal exit from Angra dos Reis, by which 68 percent of the evacuees should leave (according to the IME study), has serious problems because the slopes along its sides are constantly sliding.

Angra dos Res Mayor Nairobis Nagae says: "I do not know about the proposal by the professionals from the IME."

"I have followed the deliberations at the CML meetings. The CML plan calls for people to report to rallying points from which they will be evacuated. It does not specify which way each group will be evacuated. Neither does it consider the fact that many people, at least 30 percent, may refuse to leave their homes. I sincerely believe that the CML plan as it is now will not work." [passage omitted]

Embraer Postpones Purchases of Computer Equipment

PY0412230890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] San Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo—Because of financial problems, Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] will not benefit from the upcoming unfreezing of sales of U.S. supercomputers, a decision President Bush will announce when he visits the country. The enterprise will have to postpone its purchase of a vectorial facility board for an undetermined period of time. When this board is fitted into Embraer's IBM-3090, the computer is transformed into a supercomputer.

A lack of credit has obliged the state company to cut its investments in the informatics sector this year by $5 million. The component, which will probably cost $800,000, would practically double the processing capability of the IBM equipment. Embraer's technicians do not know when investments will be resumed, but they believe the program to purchase equipment will be reactivated within the next six months.

The company had planned to invest $27.8 million on machinery and equipment purchases, $5 million of which was to be invested in informatics equipment, but it has postponed the purchase of computers, workstations, electronic design tables, copiers, and programs.

GDP Decreased 3.85 Percent in Nine Months

PY0412224890 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 90 p 1

[All figures as published]

[Text] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) yesterday reported that the Brazilian GDP decreased 3.85 percent from January to September. These figures confirm the tendency toward recession that appeared in the last three months of 1989. From October 1989 to September 1990, the GDP decreased by 1.23 percent. This decrease is lower than that of 1981 (minus 4.4 percent) and of 1983 (minus 3.4 percent).

* Science, Technology Priority Areas Funded

91SM0066C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (Economic Section) in Portuguese 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Article by Gecy Belmonte: "Research Will Get Government Funding"]

[Text] Brasilia—Institutions, research centers, and universities, whether public or private, that wish to invest in priority areas for industrial development—biotechnology, new materials, chemical engineering—will be eligible for government funding totaling $109 million (10.9 billion cruzeiros) next year. Those interested must send their proposals by 21 January to the regional offices of the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPQ), and the Agency for Coordination of Advanced Training for Higher-Level Personnel (CAPES) throughout the country.

In announcing this information yesterday, Secretary of Science and Technology Jose Goldemberg said that these funds are part of a total of $600 million (60 billion cruzeiros) to be invested through the Second Program in Support of Scientific and Technological Development (PADCT). The program—which will be carried out until

1995—is funded by $300 million from the World Bank (IBRD) and $300 million from the National Treasury. These funds will be transferred as grants in the form of an annuity to the institutions selected.

According to Goldemberg, the government has selected 12 priority areas to receive the funding: chemistry and chemical engineering; the earth sciences and mineral technology; scientific and technological information; new materials; instrumentation; science education; the provision of essential producer goods; biotechnology; planning and management in science and sciences.

The first four areas will receive grants totaling $83.68 million (8.3 billion cruzeiros) and have until 21 January 1991 to present their proposals. An announcement will be made in November for the remaining four areas, which will receive a total of $25.53 million (2.5 billion cruzeiros).

Jose Goldemberg said that the announcements for the Second PADCT have a new feature that distinguishes it from the previous program, which was carried out during the Sarney administration: all institutions that fulfill the requirements will be able to qualify to receive the funding.

He stated once again that the government plans to increase investments in science and technology by 15 percent in real terms (above inflation) beginning in 1991. The budget of the Secretariat of Science and Technology is projected at $900 million (90 billion cruzeiros). In addition, $110 million (11 billion cruzeiros) will probably be made available next month; negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are being carried out to obtain these funds.

Chile

Bomb Explodes in Front of U.S. Consulate

PA0512042790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0356 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago, 5 Dec (AFP)—The police have reported that a bomb exploded in front of the U.S. Consulate in Santiago, Chile, at dawn [as received] on 5 December, on the eve of President George Bush's visit. The device exploded in front of the building located at the Forestal Park in the Chilean capital, but caused no casualties or damage.

A telephone call received at AFP offices attributed the action to the leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front.

The police said that the bomb was weak, consisting of gunpowder in a plastic container.

Witnesses said the bomb was left in a vehicle by unidentified individuals who had their faces covered.

Bush will arrive in Chile on 6 December in the fourth leg of his South American tour that began in Brazil. He will also stop in Uruguay, Argentina, and Venezuela.

Rocket 'Pointing at' U.S. Consulate Deactivated

PY0512112690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Our Mobile Unit No. 020 will now give us more details about the bomb found at the U.S. Embassy. Please go ahead (Rene Siglic) from Mobile Unit No. 020.

[Begin relay] Good morning. The police have completely cordoned off the Forestal Park because a LAW rocket has been discovered pointing at the building on 230 Merced Street where the U.S. Embassy, I mean the U.S. Consulate, is located. The LAW rocket was ready to be activated by a clock device. Members of the GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] are at the site, and at this precise moment they are deactivating the rocket. The sector is completely cordoned off and no one is allowed within at least 100 meters. This is all I have to report. [end relay]

Could you please find out whether this rocket was discovered or simply announced, because there are cases in which the terrorists announce what they are planning to do.

[Begin relay] According to preliminary information obtained here, the rocket was discovered by passers-by who reported it to Carabineros. Thus it was not announced by terrorists. [end relay]

Rocket Found To Be Fake

PY0512122490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago, 5 Dec (EFE)—Security measures implemented in view of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Chile on 6 December were put to the test today when a rocket—which turned out to be a fake—was discovered pointing at the U.S. Consulate in Santiago.

The contraption, made of wood and plastic, was installed in the middle of Forestal Park about 80 meters from the U.S. Consulate, which is located across the park. This park is two km east of the La Moneda Presidential Palace, in the heart of Santiago.

The rocket was discovered at 0930 GMT by a park worker who warned the police. The area was cordoned off amid a vast deployment of troops.

Personnel of the Special Police Operations Group (GOPE) and the Carabineros (militarized police) dismantled the rocket after one and a half hours and found that it was a fake.

Foreign Minister on Bush Visit, U.S. Relations

PY0512015490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma by Carmen Castro at the Foreign Ministry; date not given—passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Castro] On the eve of U.S. President George Bush's visit, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma briefly reviewed bilateral relations with the United States and the possibilities that could result from Bush's 23-hour visit to Chile.

What did the sanctions that were imposed on Chile as a result of policies adopted by the previous regime mean for Chileans, the economy, and the nation's image? The foreign minister was consulted on the matter and he gave us this answer:

[Silva Cimma] "One must acknowledge the outstanding importance that the United States has throughout the world, which is important in itself. To underrate this visit or soften it as though it were a trip to pay overdue debts would be to simply diminish its fundamental importance; it pertains to the normalization of relations between the United States and Chile, and it must be realized that this will become a reality even though some people will not like it.

"Relations were not progressing well in terms of normal and adequate development. Thanks to the much-criticized and [word indistinct] negotiations of the Foreign Ministry, in fundamental terms the government of President Aylwin has been able to overcome the barriers that we inherited from the past one by one."

[Castro] The lifting of the Kennedy Amendment, our reincorporation into the Generalized System of Preferences, and the return to the (?CIPEC) [Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries] are undeniable achievements.

What happened to these barriers? What harm did they cause? The foreign minister's answer:

[Silva Cimma] "They created obstacles, they created difficulties, and they harmed this country. They harmed Chile's image, which is important because Chile has a very good image with an extraordinary degree of (?reciprocity). And they also caused [word indistinct] from the economic viewpoint."

[Castro] An advance team from Bush's entourage is working in the field in Chile. A general rehearsal of the U.S. President's arrival and the protocol at the airport has been conducted. Security measures have been put in place everywhere Bush will carry out activities. Good afternoon.

Official Chinese Delegation Arrives

PY0412165890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] An official Chinese [not further specified] Agriculture Ministry delegation, headed by Chinese Deputy Minister of Agriculture Chen Junsheng, who is also a council of state member, arrived in Chile yesterday. The delegation met with Chilean Agriculture Minister Juan Agustin Figueroa and with ministry technicians. The delegation is planning to stay one week in Chile. After the meeting with Figueroa, the Chinese delegation visited (?a packing plant) accompanied by exporter association leaders.

The Chinese delegation will meet with President Patricio Aylwin during a special session.

November Inflation Rate Totals 0.9 Percent

PY0512013890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute has reported that the inflation rate for November was 0.9 percent and that the accumulated inflation rate for the first 11 months of the year totals 26.7 percent.

Peru

Defense Minister Visits Alto Huallaga Bases

PY0412144790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report on situation by correspondent July Guevera in Alto Huallaga area where Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego visited antisubversive bases; with comments by Fidel Mendoza Perez, deputy prefect of San Martin Province; Superior Court Judge Victor Roca Vargas; Pucallpa Bishop (Juan Luis Martin); and Defense Minister Torres; date not given—recorded]

[Text] For the first time National Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego has contacted the antisubversive bases operating in the Alto Huallaga area.

The defense minister met with political-military authorities of the emergency zone to whom he stressed the need to join efforts to restore the civilian society, promote development, and thus defeat subversion.

[Guevara, in progress] ...the problems experienced by the political-military authorities of San Martin Department, Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego met with high-ranking civilian and military leaders of that emergency zone.

The defense minister was accompanied by Admiral Luis Montes Lecaros, chairman of the Armed Forces joint command, and Army Commander General Jorge Zegarra Delgado, among other officials. They were met at the airport [not further specified] by General (Osvaldo Janque Velasco), chief of the San Martin political-military command.

The delegation immediately went by helicopter to the General Leoncio Prado barracks, the operations center for the antisubversive struggle.

In his first meeting since he assumed the post of defense minister, General Jorge Torres Aciego received reports from the San Martin military high command on important captures of Shining Path and MRTA [Tupac Amaru

Revolutionary Movement] leaders and on the requirements of the military apparatus, as well as information on human rights abuses and violations. The latter were reportedly the minister's primary concern because the meeting was aimed at coordinating civilian and military efforts to defeat subversion and restore peace in this zone.

The defense minister also received information from Fidel Mendoza Perez, San Martin Province deputy prefect, who briefed the minister on the massive flight of small and medium-sized industrialists, especially after the kidnapping of the president of the Tarapoto Chamber of Commerce.

The most serious problem in San Martin Department is the misgovernment that exists because no elections were held after the department, along with La Libertad Department, was included in the Third Region.

The deputy prefect said that there are groups that confuse the people with their political banners and disregard, for example, the appointment of deputy prefects by the executive branch.

[Mendoza] There is also a very serious problem here—namely, that there is no political authority in San Martin because of the regionalization issue. In other words, there are almost two governments and an almost unending dispute among the Third Region and central government resolutions.

In my case, well, there have not been any problems, but in other provinces of San Martin Department the people do not want to recognize the appointment of deputy prefects directly by the Interior Ministry—that is, by the government—for the simple reason that other directives are also issued by the Third Region. Therefore, there is a dispute, and I do not know how long will this uncertainty prevail.

[Guevara] For his part, Superior Court President Victor Roca Vargas has pointed out that, because of the lack of funds only nine of 21 vacant court judgeships have been filled.

There is also the problem of interpreting the law on proceedings for cases of terrorism because the judicial branch considers that the detentions carried out by the Armed Forces are a sort of kidnapping, thus violating the Constitution and international treaties.

[Roca, in progress] ...They have explained to me that such a thing can be done to a person because guarantees have been suspended. Nevertheless, by doing this—and I am interpreting the Constitution here—we are also leaving a gap. In other words, when a person is detained he must be immediately accompanied by a prosecutor and by his attorney. If this is not done, then it represents an illegal action that we must report.

In my opinion, it would be necessary, I repeat, to discuss this with your advisers to clarify this, make it viable, and avoid these recurring accusations of human rights violations that are always reported.

[Torres] We will only be able to do it with your cooperation because you live here. Otherwise, we will not be able to do anything by ourselves. This must be done with the very important contribution of all of you and of all sectors. The most outstanding teacher, for example, should also be here. Heroism ....[changes thought] Tarapoto's most outstanding priest should also be here to talk because everyone must lend a hand—everyone, all Peruvians, particularly in this zone. All of you who live here and were born here must defend your land.

Do not be afraid at all because [words indistinct] you must be entirely sincere [words indistinct] into account that you are talking to the Army commander general, the joint command, or the defense minister.

In this regard, ask for anything you deem appropriate in coordinating moves. Be sincere [word indistinct] so that tranquillity may return here. You must believe that we are here to help you.

[Guevara] The defense minister also offered the Army's help in building highways like the one linking Tarapoto with Yurimaguas, which is already under way—in addition to the highways linking Tarapoto with Moyobamba and Juanjui, thus allowing for the transportation of agricultural products, which, because of the current lack of transportation, are causing losses to the farmers who seek more profit by growing coca.

After visiting various antisubversive bases in Huallaga, the defense minister went to the Ucayali region. At the Pucallpa antisubversive base he was met by Admiral (Felix Granton), chief of the political-military command. The meeting was attended by Ucayali Region President (Rosendo Davila Duran).

Pucallpa's situation regarding terrorism is aggravated by the problems of vandalism, especially against the (Federico Basadre) highway, the main access for the foodstuffs coming from Lima to supply Pucallpa.

This week fifteen trucks carrying agricultural products were attacked, and it is feared that foodstuffs will be in short supply in the city. The problem was reported by Ucayali Region President Rosendo Davila, who asked the defense minister for maximum guarantees.

During the meeting at the naval base, General Jorge Torres Aciego talked with Pucallpa Bishop (Juan Luis Martin). A local magazine had published remarks in which Martin held the zone's political-military command responsible for human rights violations.

[Martin, in progress] ...by journalists and we never found them. We have not supplied any information to them. We have not contacted them by telephone or in person.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your opinion of today's approach between civilian and military authorities in this emergency zone?

[Torres] Well now, we have visited two emergency zones: the one in Huallaga and this one in Ucayali. We see that a good approach has been achieved between the civilians and military authorities. This is precisely what we wanted to verify at the site of the events. We are trying to change priorities in this struggle against subversion.

We believe and have confidence that the antisubversive struggle will be won with the participation of civilians with goodwill—that is, of all Peruvians.

One's spirit is lifted and one feels more Peruvian when one visits and sees the conditions in which officers and soldiers operate and discharge their duties.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, there has been information about abuses by political-military command. Is this true?

[Torres] Well now, we have just talked to the civilian authorities here in this zone of Pucallpa, and we have verified that there is no such thing. It actually seems that people deliberately fabricate such reports to make the forces of order look bad.

We have even talked to the bishop about whom an article was published a few days ago. He totally denied this article. He said that he did not say anything and that he did not supply any information.

Nevertheless, I do not know why those reports are published, except in an attempt to tarnish the image of our soldiers.

State of Emergency Extended in Lima, Callao

PY0412212090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Report from Government Palace by Luis Sotomayor]

[Text] Through Decree 64, published today by the EL PERUANO official gazette, the state of emergency in the provinces of Lima and Callao has been officially extended. The Armed Forces will be in charge of safeguarding domestic order in these two cities, Lima and Callao.

'Passiveness' on Political Violence Deplored

PY0412130990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Lima, 26 Nov (EFE)—The wave of political violence sweeping Peru has forced the executive branch to harden its antiterrorist position. Meanwhile, conservative leader Luis Bedoya Reyes today called for a civic union against the "state's ineffectiveness."

On Sunday [25 November] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori announced that he would send to Congress several draft bills designed to enhance security forces action in the antisubversive struggle.

Fujimori indicated that in those legal instruments he would propose sanctions against the judges that do not act with due severity when judging terrorism cases.

The Second Correctios Court of Ica, 300 km south of Lima, today asked the Supreme Court to change the venue of the trial of 30 people charged with terrorism because their judges, who claim they have no police protection, have received death threats.

Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego will appear today before the congressional Justice and Human Rights Committee and the Pacification and Violence Committee to explain the new antisubversive strategy planned by the government.

For his part, in a political program televised last night, Luis Bedoya Reyes, leader of the convervative Popular Christian Party, called on civilians to unite against terrorism and defeat it because the state "has been unable to do it in 10 years" of violence.

Bedoya displayed a letter by slain Peruvian industrialist Javier Puiggros. The letter asked for protection from the police precinct in the town of Huacho, 135 km north of Lima.

Last Friday [23 November] a Maoist Shining Path band killed Puiggros during a raid on his farm in Huacho.

Shining Path also killed the manager of the Puiggros farm.

The industrialist's murder has made a deep impression on the executive branch and on Peruvian political circles.

Bedoya Reyes noted that, in his letter, Puiggros wrote that the police "are more afraid than we are," and he revealed that the industrialist was blackmailed by the terrorists who asked for money.

The politician asked civilians to unite like they have already done in some parts of Peru where primitively armed civilian groups known as "peasant defense patrols" are confronting the Shining Path with varying success.

Last Saturday [24 November] Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales criticized the government's "passiveness" on political violence.

Bernales requested that the antisubversive strategy be changed, and he stressed that "the terrorists live among us, obtain their food supplies from us, and move among us. Is it possible that no one knows who they are, no one sees them?"

Bernales pointed out that the antiterrorist struggle not only involves the military and police forces, but the entire population.

Meanwhile, the violence continued leaving a string of victims. Professor Edilberto del Pino, departmental general secretary of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), was killed yesterday in Huancavelica, 440 km southeast of Lima.

The Huancavelica police held the Shining Path responsible for the crime. Yesterday the Shining Path also killed two peasants near the town of Quinua, in Ayacucho Department, in southern Peru.

In Huaura, a town in Lima Department, terrorists attacked the house of Huaura Mayor Jesus Morales last night. They caused property damage, but claimed no victims.

Uruguay

MPP Lawmakers Plan Walkout Against Bush

PY0412204490 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1820 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Deputies Helio Sarthou and Hugo Cores of the People's Participation Movement [MPP] will attend the congressional session during which U.S. President George Bush will deliver a speech. We should recall that it had been reported that those deputies would not attend the session.

They will attend the session, but they will walk out of the room as soon as the U.S. President arrives.

The two deputies have delivered the following letter to Senate Speaker Gonzalo Aguirre:

The undersigned lawmakers of the MPP of the Broad Front, availing themselves of the freedom of expression in force in our country, hereby announce that we will walk out of the session at the time at which you will address your speech [passage indistinct] country and in this assembly, which was not debated in Congress. Our attitude is based on the fact that you, as President, are the agent and promoter of a government policy that has been permanently hostile to the peoples and governments of Cuba and Nicaragua.

Repeating the events in Grenada, this policy overwhelmed—through an invasion—the sovereignty and self-determination of Panama, which is an independent and autonomous Latin American nation. This was a genocidal action against a brother country during which the most essential rules of international law were violated and human rights disregarded.

The Uruguayan Congress condemned your government's conduct through a declaration, a copy of which is attached. We believe that this declaration supports our attitude [words indistinct] of the policy of depredating the resources of Latin America, which remains in a state of underdevelopment because of commercial, tariff, and debt policies. [passage omitted]

President Lacalle Welcomes Bush at Airport

PY0412190090 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1442 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Speech by President Luis Alberto Lacalle to welcome U.S. President George Bush at Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo—live]

[Text] Mr. President of the United States and members of his entourage:

In the name of the Uruguayan people and Government, I welcome you and your entourage on your arrival in our country. Mr. President, it has been 30 years since a U.S. president made an official visit to our country. You probably agree, Mr. President, that (?it has been) a long time. We know that during this time there have been many transformations. (?I hope) that the U.S. President's visit to our country will be productive. I must briefly point out [words indistinct] who receives you, the hopes and concerns [passage indistinct]. We Uruguayans, in the full exercise of our freedom, reassert the concepts of a democratic and representative government, which are the roots of our origin. We are now seeking the democratic legitimacy of our social and economic [passage indistinct].

We are all [words indistinct] in this country, Mr. President. [Passage indistinct] exemplary values brought to our land by our immigrant forebears. Our land, like yours, received the generous contribution of other [words indistinct] who from all parts of the world came to this region of the continent seeking [words indistinct] offering in exchange a strong sense of the value of work, family, savings, and the desire for their children to have a better life than their parents.

The seal of your country states: E pluribus unum. We also have made one out of many, and not only in the social and political fields. The many political debates in which we are currently engaged do not separate us. On the contrary, they strengthen us with a deep sense of national unity, a unity with many nuances but one common denominator—the country.

This is Uruguay, a country that is trying to quickly consolidate its future (?membership) in the common market. We are preparing to join the common market not only in the factories and workshops but also in schools and in our minds. Since the days of independence, there has not been a more important event in my country than our joining in a trade association with Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, the fraternal countries [words indistinct].

Although our country is the smallest and least populated of the group, it accepts the challenges that a common market represents. We believe that by pursuing excellence as an incentive Uruguay will be able to stand out, flourish, and give its people more opportunities and better living conditions. Mr. President, this regional project coincides with your historic Initiative for the

Americas. We understood as soon as you announced it that the initiative meant a change in the quality of relations in the hemisphere. This is why, as you know, we quickly expressed our encouragement and support for it.

In our judgment, that change [passage indistinct] of the proposal, turning it into a milestone. It switches the base of our relations from financial operations, which have cost us so dearly, to the formation of joint enterprises, risk ventures, and the transfer of technology, which is a symbol of real social and economic progress.

Mr. President, we have many hopes for effective results from your initiative, which we [words indistinct] think will be beneficial. This is why we trust that as soon as the U.S. Congress approves the initiative, we will see it come true. There is not much time for hope, and we are in a hurry to advance to the future.

We do not ignore the problems of the world, Mr. President. On the contrary, economic interdependence and the breakdown in the global political equation that occurred this year will be remembered as a moment of great transformation affecting our daily lives.

We are a peace-loving country that fulfills its international economic and political commitments. The Persian Gulf crisis has greatly affected us, and we have not hesitated to support the UN position. Mr. President, since the early years of our history, since the formation [words indistinct] our first leader Jose Artigas, we have felt the influence in our modes of thought and in our institutions of that glorious year of 1776, which produced the greatest political document known to man, a document the great Jefferson wrote to last forever: the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. He wrote this document for a country that had experienced all kinds of hardships and achievements.

Our foreign policy, which is based on the principles of nonintervention, the peaceful solution of conflicts, and respect and support for international organizations, has always prevailed over any change in government. You can imagine, Mr. President, that we live in freedom, not as an abstract principle but as a way of life, covering all aspects of work for prosperity, which is the desire of the Uruguayan people.

We have not always agreed with the United States on the evaluation of international events, but those disagreements have not prevented us from maintaining productive relations in all fields, especially in the economic area. It is essential for our development to strengthen this aspect of our relations. We fully share your concern over the success of the Uruguay Round. This is one of the most important issues for all countries today. The failure of the negotiations could bring about serious consequences for the current and future world and for us and for our children.

We welcome you here today believing that the people of the United States are our friends and that the two governments have the necessary tools for great achievements. Mr. Bush, on behalf of the Uruguayan people, I welcome you to this country, which like your own is also a land of leaders, [words indistinct], and the brave. Thank you very much.

Venezuela

Students Protest President Bush's Scheduled Visit

PA0512015690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 4 Dec (AFP)—Students from the Teaching Institute of Caracas today set tires on fire and confronted police to protest the forthcoming visit to Venezuela of U.S. President George Bush.

Young students with their faces concealed told the private television station Televen that Bush's visit "is an insult, especially because it will take place on the anniversary of the invasion of Panama." [as received]

Venezuelan Defense Minister Vice Admiral Hector Jurado Toro stated today that the "necessary measures" have been adopted to avoid incidents of this nature during Bush's visit, but the students have announced that they will not give up their street demonstrations.

Bush will arrive in Venezuela, the last stop of his Latin American tour, on Friday.